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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Fourth periodic report of States parties

Yemen*

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* For the initial report submitted by the Government of the Republic of Yemen, see CEDAW/C/5/Add.24 considered by the Committee at its twelfth session. For the second periodic report submitted by the Republic of Yemen, see CEDAW/C/13/Add.24 considered by the Committee at its twelfth session. For the third periodic report submitted by the Republic of Yemen, see CEDAW/C/YEM/3 considered by the Committee at its twelfth session.

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References

On May 31, 1984 the Yemen signed the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Its implementation commenced on June 29, 1984. Between the period June, 1984 and November, 1992, Yemen submitted three reports on the level of implementation of the Convention. The National Women Committee submits this fourth report containing information and statistics available since 1994. Yemen has recorded reservations on paragraph (a) of Article (29) which provides that "arbitration of any dispute that may ensue between two or more of the contracting States, at the request of one of them, over the interpretation or implementation of this Convention that is not settled through negotiations. If, within six months of requesting arbitration, the parties fail to arrive at an agreement on the regulation of the arbitration, any of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice upon an application submitted according the Articles of Association of the Court."

A work team has been constituted from the governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to write a report on the level of implementation of the Convention, clarify any difficulties and obstacles facing implementation and propose practical measures and solutions necessary for the implementation and activation of this Convention. The report has also been discussed on November 1, 1999 at the symposium organized by the National Women Committee, in collaboration with the United Nations Organization for Feminine Activities (UNIFEM). Representatives of ministries, government and non-governmental institutions and international organizations operating in Yemen participated in the symposium. The dialogue and discussions underlined the need to concentrate on the measures practiced by some of those overseeing implementation of the law and making women aware of the rights that are ensured for them.

The amended Yemeni Constitution promulgated in1994 endorsed the principle of equality in Article (40) by stating:-

> "All citizens are equal in rights and public obligations".

It also underlined the principle of equality in Article (31) that provides for:-

> "Women are the siblings of men and they have the rights and bear the obligations that are ensured and directed by the Shari'a and provided for under the laws".

Furthermore, the laws affirm the general constitutional principles, most of which have ensured for women equal rights as for men in the economic, social, political and cultural fields of life. These have primarily been represented by the right to be elected and nominated, occupation of public posts, equal wages, retirement entitlements and social insurance. If some laws contain some differentiation, this may sometimes mean positive differentiation, such as is found in the Labor and Civil Service laws.

Some articles of the Convention are in contradiction with the Islamic Sharia that has not discriminated against or barred women from any right. It has established equality between men and women on the basis of the Sharia controls that regulate relations between, and for, the two sexes. The existence of some practices that restrict the principle of equality guaranteed by the Constitution is the result of a great social heritage and has no relation to the precepts of the Islamic Sharia that has honored the Muslim woman, if not granting her additional rights out of consideration for her nature and constitution.

The evaluation report on the level of implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has contained fundamentals, principles and general provisions that have been established. It has made these a reference point to be benefited from at the national level when assessing women's status in governmental and non-governmental institutions, the bodies concerned with women's rights and the Supreme National Committee on Human Rights. The following has been highlighted:

- Actual legal and legislative status of women.
- Bringing into prominence the gap between women and men to ensure realizing equal opportunity for women.
- Promoting awareness in women's rights and their status in family and public life.
- Structural reform in institutions concerned with women's affairs to enable them to participate in the formulation of policies and implement plans, programs and projects at the governmental and non-governmental levels.
- Furnish decision-makers with the results and developments of the report to act for rectification of the work course in women's development plans and programs.

In this respect, we cannot but thank the work team that has exerted fruitful efforts to accomplish this report.

Amat-al-Aleem Al-Souswa
Chairwoman
National Women Committee
Sana'a
December, 1999.

Part One
General Background

1- The Republic of Yemen is located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Its area is 555,000 sq. km. (excluding the Empty Quarter). It is bounded from the north by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from the south by the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden, from the east by the Sultanate of Oman and from the west by the Red Sea. From the south west it is bounded by the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait that is divided into two parts by the Yemeni island of Perim (Mayoun) dominating its entrance. Socotra Island lies in the Arabian Sea and is the largest Yemeni island. It is at a distance of 510 km from the Yemeni coastline and has an area of 265 sq. km. There are more than 112 Yemeni islands in the Red Sea. The largest are Kamaran island, Greater Hunaish. Smaller Hunaish, Zuqur, Az-Zubair, Al-Tair, etc.

Islam is the State religion and the Constitution and the laws derive their legitimacy from it.

The resident population of the Republic of Yemen in 1997 was 16,482,000 persons, distributed among 19 Governorates in addition to the Capital Secretariat.

Despite the disparate population density from one Governorate to another, yet the overall density at the level of the Republic is approximately 30 persons per sq. km.

The demographic and population indicators for 1997 (in thousand) are:-

Total population (population projections)	16,482
Male population	8,229
Female population	8,253
Percentage of Male population	49.95%
Percentage of Female population ratio	50.05%
Urban population	4,130
Male urban population	2,223
Female urban population	1,907
Population ratio (urban)	25.06
Years needed for population doubling (years)	18.9
Natural annual growth rate	3.7%
Average number of families in a single house (family)	0.98

Source: Central Statistics Organ, Ministry of Planning and Development, Statistical Yearbook, April, 1998, Sana'a.

Table No. (1)*

Indicator Type	Rural	Urban	Total
Gender ratio at less than 1 year of age(1997)	105	103	104
Gender ratio for total population (1997) DHS	100	107	103
Population ratio for less than 15 years of age in 1998			
Males	50.70	39.20	47.90
Females	46.7	42.80	45.90
Both sexes	48.7	40.8	46.9
Urban and rural population percentage	74.44	25.56	100
Average age of population (1997) DHS			
Males	14.4	16.7	15.0
Females	15.3	17.00	15.7
Both sexes	14.9	16.80	15.4
Average age of population 1997			
Males	20.31	22.64	20.89
Females	21.64	22.02	21.72
Both sexes	21.00	22.39	21.30
Average number of individuals in household (1994 census)	6.97	7.00	6.98
Ratio of dependency 1996			
Minors' dependency ratio (0 – 14)	103.5	71.48	94.82
Adults' dependency ratio (65 years +)	7.79	4.86	6.99
Age dependency ratio	111.28	76.03	101.81
Overall dependency ratio	111.93	174.67	201.84
Actual dependency ratio 1994	343.73	325.67	339.33
Economic dependency ratio 1994	443.73	425.67	439.33

Remarks :Ratio of dependency per 100 individuals of the population among the 15 – 64 years category. Actual dependency ratio per 100 economically active persons. Economic dependency ratio per 100 economically active persons, including the provider.

(2) Central Statistics Organ, Ministry of Planning and Development, Statistical Yearbook, April, 1998, Sana'a.

Table No. (2)

Indicator type	Rural	Urban	Total
Fertility and mortality indicators DHS			
Overall fertility rate for 1997	7.0	5.0	6.5
General fertility rate (thousand)	221.0	167.0	206.0
Stillbirths rate (thousand)	40.6	35.2	39.2
Infant mortality rate for less than 5 years (thousand) - after a thousand for 1997 DHS			
Males	120.3	82.8	112.0
Females	102.9	77.0	97.1
Both sexes	112.0	80.0	104.8
Still mortality rate (per thousand) for 1997			
Males	12.9	10.3	12.2
Females	11.0	8.9	10.4
Both sexes	11.9	9.7	11.2
Life expectancy at birth by years for 1998			
Males	56.6	58.5	57.5
Females	59.6	62.6	61.0
Both sexes	58.1	60.5	59.2
Average age at first marriage (1994 census)			
Gender			
Males	24.3	25.7	24.8
Females	20.4	21.6	20.7
Both sexes	22.3	23.9	22.8
Demographic indicators from Yemen demographic survey of MCH 1997			
Population and family specifics			
Average family size	6.9	7.2	7.0
Average number of individuals per room	3.2	2.6	3.1
Average number of individuals per bedroom	4.2	3.5	4.0
Ratio of families headed by women	10.0	9.0	10.0
Infants' mortality rate (thousand) DHS			
Males	90.4	67.0	85.2
Females	66.1	59.4	64.4
Both sexes	78.8	63.4	75.3

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(3) Central Statistics Organization, Ministry of Planning and Development, Statistical Yearbook, April, 1998, Sana'a.

Economic situation

2.The Yemeni economy has suffered from a sharp crisis whose features appeared in the 1980's. At the same time, this crisis was accompanied, and its appearance aided in a clear manner, by important political and economic developments. The first was the unification of the country in May, 1990 and the resultant merging of two different and backward economies. Then, there was the Second Gulf Crisis in August, 1990 and the resultant return of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni immigrants working in the Gulf. In addition, there was the constriction and even cut-off of the remittances volume, external credits and aid and the weak domestic savings, which led to the continuation and expansion of the scope of poverty. All of these factors affected women through:

(a) Population growth:

3- Population growth amounted to approximately 3.7%. This is the highest growth rate in the world and is not at all commensurate with the economic, social and environmental growth rates. As against this population increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) amounts to approximately2.9% at constant prices and 27.7% at current prices, while the inflation rate rises to more than 75.8%. Population growth constitutes an obstacle before the improvement of living conditions and the individual's welfare. This is owed to the fact that population growth is appositely related to the individual's share of primary services of education, health, water and housing. Women are among the most affected population sectors by the phenomenon of population growth that is inequitable with society's economic resources. They face problems related to malnutrition, education, health and aspects of diverse social welfare, especially as they are a part of a traditional society that still prioritizes services and care for men.

(b) Low per capita income

4- There is a somewhat noticeable increase in the average number of families owing to the population increase. The average at the level of the Republic in 1994 amounted to 6.7 individuals. The average size of the family among the poor is 8.5 individuals as against 5.9 individuals among the well off families.

The Yemeni individual's income is very low when compared to the high level of prices, the growing cost of living and the increased demand for basic requirements. The individual's share of the GDP during 1990/1996 amounted to YR 9550 – 36,019 in a single year. Table No. (4) shows the GDP and the GNP and the individual's share thereof in Yemeni Rials on the basis of the GDP. This piece of statistic indicates that the income of the population in 1990 was around YR 122,817 million. In 1996 the national income of the population reached YR 574,893 million Rials. As for the remittances of the immigrants, they successively declined from US$ 809.2 million in 1985 to US$ 120 million per year and totally ceased in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis of August, 1990.

Table No. (3)
Importance and Role of Emigrants' Remittances during 1975 – 1990

Details	1975	1980	1985	1990
Remittances (million dollars)	329	1417	1189	1133
As %age of GDP	24	40	24	17
As %age of external sector receipts	56	65	38	22

Table No. (4)
GDP and GNP and individual's share therein during 1990 – 1996

Years	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
1. Resident population in mid-year (thousand)	12860	13227	13829	14341	14871	15421	15961
2.GDP at market prices (million Rials)	123757	146241	182881	220882	270900	449271	554026
3. GNP at market prices (million Rials)	122817	143271	178175	216722	265865	433098	574893
4. Average share of the individual in the GNP (YR)	9550	10742	12884	15112	17878	28085	36019
5. Average share of the individual in the GNP (US$)	686	486	452	382	324	281	281
6. Average exchange rate of US$	13.92	22.12	28.50	39.54	55.24	100.00	128.00

Table No. (5)
Total manpower, unemployed and unemployment rate by age group and gender

	Manpower			Unemployed population			Unemployment rate		
Age group	Males	Females	Total	Males	Female	Total	Males	Female	Total
10-19	381199	214638	595837	97813	27433	125236	25.66	12.78	21.52
20-29	760011	116555	926566	98512	8066	106588	12.96	4.84	11.05
30-39	705375	156150	861525	39132	1519	40651	5.55	0.97	4.72
40-49	461329	95931	557260	21950	447	22597	4.76	0.47	4.06
50-59	273353	50356	323709	14312	438	14750	5.24	0.87	4.56
60-65	254270	33444	287714	14123	540	14663	5.55	1.61	5.10
Not shown	788	261	1049	112	31	143	14.21	11.88	13.60
Total	2836325	717335	3553660	285954	38664	324618	10.08	5.39	9.13

(4) Yemeni emigrants remittances under regional and international economic developments, Dr. Yahya Yahya Al-Mutawakel.

(5) & (6) : Central Statistics Organ, Ministry of Planning and Development, Statistical Yearbook, April, 1998, Sana'a.

Political and Legal Situation

5. As for the legal level, legislation and laws have developed, particularly after realization of Yemeni unity on May 22, 1990. This transformation was in pace with the volume of economic, social and political developments that were realized. Such legislation and laws are derived from the Islamic Sharia, be they civil, penal, administrative or personal status laws.

Part Two

Article (1 – 4)

General political and legal measures to eliminate discrimination, ensure women's development and effect a total uplift of their status.

6. The International Convention on Discrimination against Women in its Article (1) has defined "discrimination" as "discrimination, exclusion or restriction imposed on the basis of sex the purpose or the affect of which is weakening or nullifying the submission that women have human rights and fundamental liberties in the political, economic, social, cultural and civil fields, by which – as stated in Article (2) – governments were obligated to eliminate discrimination against women and clarify their obligations in the field of realizing equality through constitutional, legal and other means. This is underlined by Article (3) which calls upon governments to adopt positive measures to ensure an upgrade women's conditions and generally promote them.

Based on these legal articles and provisions it is possible to clarify the general political and legal measures that underline the equality of the two sexes within the following constitutional and legal context:-

Constitution Promulgated in 1994

7. The amended Constitution of the Republic of Yemen promulgated in December, 1994 and based on the venerable Islamic Sharia has ensured equality in general rights and obligations for citizens without discrimination between males and females. .Article (40) thereof provides: "All citizens are equal in general rights and obligations".

Article (41) has underlined that "Each citizen has the right to contribute to political, economic, social and cultural life. The State guarantees the freedom of thought, expression of opinion by word and in writing within the limitations of the law". Article (31) states that "Women are the siblings of men and have the rights and bear the obligations that are ensured and directed by the Sharia and provided for under the law". This is meant to prevent any conflict between the laws and revoke any interpretation that is inconsistent with the precepts of the Islamic Sharia.

General Elections Law No. (27) of 1996 and amendments thereof:

8. This law has granted women the right of election and nomination and has made no distinction between men and women as regards this right. This is out of consideration that each of them is fully eligible to act. Out of awareness of the legislator of the size of the administrative, organizational and social obstacles that could bar women from enjoying their legal rights, a special provision was made for women called "Encouraging women to fully exercise their electoral rights" by adopting all practical measures that would assist them in translating such provisions into an exercised reality without consideration for their gender.

Civil Status and Registration Law No. (23) of 1991:

9. This law is concerned with underlining the equality of the two sexes. Its provisions and articles are harmonious and in Convention with the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Judicial Authority Law No. (1) of 1991

10. The Judicial Authority Law has not mentioned the male gender when determining the conditions for appointment of judges of courts and holders of the public prosecution posts. We wish to point out that Yemen is among the few States of the Arab world and, more specifically the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, that has granted women the right to be engaged in the judiciary, the courts and the public prosecution, as well as the security and police establishments. The number of female judges in 1997 was 14, 53 lawyers and 25 appointed to posts in the public prosecution.

The Penal Procedures Law No. (13) of 1994

11. The law sets out special provisions for women and takes into consideration the conditions of pregnant women, nursing women or those who care for the young. Article (484) of the law provides for halting the death penalty or carrying out of the religious penalty against pregnant women until delivery of infant. The same applies to nursing mothers until breast feeding of infant is over. The law further stipulates that

before execution of the penalty, someone should be available to care for the woman's child. The law has permitted postponement of the penalty depriving freedom if the adjudged person is a pregnant woman until she delivers the child and spends a period of not less than two months after that, during which she is accorded special treatment suited to her condition. Apart from that, the law through its provisions deepens consideration for women's and men's human rights equally, especially as regards family affairs.

Nationality Law No. (6) of 1990

12. This law has ensured for women rights equal to those of men and did not differentiate between them on the basis of gender as regards acquisition of the Yemeni nationality. (See Articles 9, Paragraph 84)

Civil Service Law No. (19) of 1991

13. The Civil Service Law has made it clear that the holding of public posts rests on the principle of equal opportunity and ensuring equal rights for all citizens without discrimination or differentiation. This right was reinforced by several articles of the law that grant women privileges, among them:

- Maternity and child leave with full pay for sixty days and an additional 20 days if the delivery was under labor or caesarian or the woman delivered twins.
- A nursing mother has to work five working hours per day only, until the infant completes six months of age.
- The law lowers working hours for the pregnant employee to four hours per day beginning from the sixth month of pregnancy until delivery.
- The law grants the female employee leave without pay for a full year, as a maximum period, approved by the administrative unit, if such employee is in need for such leave.
- If one of the spouses is to accompany the other in travel abroad, the two are granted leave without pay for up to four years.

However, the negative aspects of this law is lowering the leave of a woman whose husband has demised from 130 days under the previous Law No. (14) of 1978 to 40 days only. The other relates to the leave granted to the two spouses without pay for a period of one year.

Labor Law No. (5) of 1995

14.This law has provided for total equality between men and women in holding public posts, work and receiving remuneration equal to that of men. In addition, women are entitled to receive qualification, promotion and leave. (See paragraph (104) of Article (11).

Social Insurance Law No. 26) of 1991

15-The articles of this law take into consideration the rights of both sexes (insured men and women). Women, in particular, have been granted privileges in respect of old age pension to which they are entitled upon reaching 55 years of age, instead of 60 years of age for men. This is under the proviso that period of contribution in insurance is not less than fifteen years. Men, on the other hand, have to attain the age of 60 years and the same period of contribution in insurance. The insured woman has been granted this right if her contribution installments amount to 300 instead of 360 for men under the same conditions.

Insurance and Pensions Law No. (25) of 1991

16-This law is applicable to all state male and female employees and workers in the public and mixed sectors. This law grants numerous privileges to women out of consideration for their family and social conditions.

General Education Law No. (45) of 1992

17.This law equates the two genders in the right to benefit from education opportunities provided by the education establishments. This includes the right of the girl to have access to education on an equal footing with the boy in accordance with her tendencies, inclinations and capabilities.

The advance registered in enrollment, during the nineties in particular, has brought into prominence a number of positive changes in legislation. This makes us embark upon a profound analysis of the content of such legislation. It has to a great extent absorbed the changing conditions of women related to the degree of social, economic and political development, the existing customary and tribal law and the role of and perception of women. We arrive at the result that the development taking place in the Yemeni laws is mostly the result of the change in economic, political and social conditions in general. As such, women's conditions have changed and these changes impose themselves upon society and, more specifically, the decision-makers. This is particularly so after the increased enrollment of girls in education and women embarking upon work fields and public life. There is also expansion of the base of women's participation in political parties and organizations and other professional unions.

There is an immense need for activation of these laws to eliminate the existing discrimination resulting from the interpretation of some of these laws. There is also need for changing the perception that distinguishes between men and women and is reinforced by a system of social values. These have contributed to the weakening of women's integration in the public sphere and their not fully benefiting from the equal rights ensured by the laws in force and in accordance with the Yemen's ratification of the Convention that is now in force.

The publication, awareness and declaration of this Convention, so that it becomes known in a legal and official manner to all of the relevant administrative quarters, judges, lawyers, human rights, national and other organization, is necessary. The difficulties that obstruct the implementation of Yemeni laws must be dealt with owing to the equal rights that are enshrined in them for both genders. There must be measures of a practical nature that aim at the effective application of the provisions of the effective laws.

Tackling the obstacles that confront the application of this Convention lies in the search after the core reasons that limit activation of national legislation and laws and international Conventions, among them the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. One of the gains realized at the level of implementation and aspects of shortcomings should be clarified. The status of Yemeni women must be clear. The forms of incompatibility between her genuine capabilities and recognized legal and social rights for which women struggled and the government supported should be clear. The government is aware of the importance of women asserting their rights and presence as citizens with full rights. The rights that they have acquired must be supported and backed as an expression of the genuine role that they must play within their families and in society, if these gains are not subjected to elimination. Individual, social and political rights of women should be reinforced and this requires that women continue to demand their rights, as well as recognition of these rights.

It is also necessary that legal provisions devoted to the principle of legitimate equality must be developed. There must be diligent march that is compatible with the precepts of the venerable Islamic Sharia. There has to be compatibility with women's capabilities and their importance as effective elements of society. Consideration must be given to tackling the social and psychological residues that still govern society so that it becomes easier for us to interact with the changes that we witness today and attempt to modernize and adjust some laws to fit with the new reality.

Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

18. The Commission on the Status of Women formed an open membership work team in 1996 to formulate the draft Optional Protocol of a procedural nature for the follow-up of the level of implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women by the states parties to this Convention that had been ratified by 163 states up to 1999.

The open membership work team was able to submit the draft Optional Protocol and discussion thereof began in 1996. In 1998 the second reading of this draft took place. There was a general feeling among all the delegations participating in the forty third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, that is held annually at the United Nations headquarters in New York, that the Protocol must be submitted in final form to the Women Center Committee. This should take place before the beginning of the session devoted to discussion of preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly set for June, 2000 under the slogan "Women 2000 – Equality, Development and Peace for Both Genders in the Twenty First Century".

The draft Optional Protocol is comprised of 21 articles. In its content these refer to all the international documents and Conventions that provide for equality in human rights for males and females. These begin with the United Nations Charter and move through the International Declaration on Human Rights, the Inter national Conventions on Economic, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights, the Work Program Declaration of the Vienna International Conference on Human Rights that provided for an Optional Protocol for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Beijing Methodology that urged commencing and completing work on this Protocol at the soonest possible.

The general trend was to expedite arriving at a formulation on which all delegations participating in the works of this session agree. There was special emphasis on Article (20) that does not permit any reservations in respect of this Protocol, as its optional nature makes it non-obligatory upon the parties to the Convention to enjoin this Protocol.

Despite the procedural nature of this Protocol, yet enjoining it furnishes much political significance.

It must be pointed out that this Protocol was approved by the work team on March 11,1999 by consensus. This terminated four years of serious work and the Protocol was well received. It was submitted to the Economic and Social Council in July, 1999. The Council will, in turn, submit a recommendation to General Assembly at its forthcoming session during the last quarter of this year. If it is approved by the General Assembly, the Protocol will come into effect following ratification by ten states parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Updated Population Work Plan (1996 – 2000)*

19. The updated population work plan (1996 – 2000) adopted by the National Population Council on 14/7/1997 and approved by the Council of Ministers on 3/9/1997 is concerned with care for the aged. In its objectives the Plan concentrates on care for the aged in the following manner:-

i. Work through appropriate mechanisms to reinforce self-reliance among the aged and prepare conditions that consolidate quality of life.
ii. Formulate a health care system, in addition to the social and economic insurance system for the elderly along with granting special attention to the needs of the aged woman.
iii. Formulate a social support system on the official and unofficial planes with the objective of reinforcing the family's ability to care for the aged within the family

Changes effected to the functions of the family in our Yemeni society

20. The development that our society witnesses and the changes that accompany it have affected the limited income families that are no longer able to provide for their young and aged members. There is an increase in the rates of economic and social provision volume, apart from the presence of the extended family system in the countryside. This increases the manifestations of poverty among rural families and the emergence of the nucleus family in the urban regions.

All of these social factors have their weight in providing care for the aged in our country. With these changes in the functions of the family during recent years necessity imposes expansion in the spread of care of the aged institutions' services, especially those from deprived and poor families or families that have a ratio of the disabled aged.

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* Men and Women in the Republic of Yemen, A Statistical View, 1998, Central Planning Organization, Ministry of Planning.

Institutions for the Care of the Aged

21- The aged received the attention and care of the State, pursuant to the provisions of the National Strategy and the Population Action Plan. There are four homes to accommodate and care for the aged located in Sana'a, Taiz, Al-Hudeida and Aden. The number of the aged benefiting from the services of the Care of the Aged Center in Sana'a is 82 male and female aged. In Taiz Governorate there is a center for the aged that cares for 40 of the elderly, among them 25 males and 15 females. As for the number of the aged who benefit from the services of the Center for the Care of the Aged in Al-Hudeida Governorate it is 120 male and female aged persons. On the other hand, the number of elderly persons who benefit from the services of the Center for the Care of the Aged in Aden, it is 73 males and 16 females.

The overall total of the aged benefiting from the services of the four centers is 331. The number of employees at these centers is 73.

As for the non-governmental organizations there is no clear attention paid to the aged, be that through programs and activities undertaken by Women qualification institutions. This requires that such organizations directed their activities and programs to the issues of care for and qualification of the aged of both genders, especially the deprived, poor and disabled aged women. They live under difficult circumstances and are more in need for such care and rehabilitation services.

In this report we are concerned with concentrating on the issue of caring for aged females in particular. Women have a longer life span than men. It can be stated that there are 190 women against 100 men in the elderly age group. As against 100 men who have exceeded eighty years of age there are 181 women. The ratio exceeds 287 among those who have exceeded ninety years of age and 286 among those who exceeded one hundred years of age.

As old age is a social concept, society gives different age projections according to gender and social and cultural values and criteria and the roles assigned to individuals and Yemeni society. For example, often social values related to marriage age lead to the imposition of formulas for the elderly and the young wives, especially among the low education rural families.

Problems of the Aged Females:

22. The aged females are sometimes unable to obtain resources, land and property despite the absence of any legal obstacles preventing them from that. They suffer from the paucity of health services directed to them. This results in cases of malnutrition, especially in the rural regions. Impoverishment among the aged females is on the rise and they are unable to face the difficult living conditions. This results in poverty that they have to face in the absence of social and economic safety owing to the spread of

ignorance and illiteracy in their ranks. Consequently, the elderly women are in an increasing manner subject to poverty and in a greater degree than men.

Problems of Families and women whose provider has emigrated

23. The family and the woman whose provider has emigrated and those who have returned from the lands they emigrated to face many problems. The most important of these are:-

- Difficulty in joining the work market, especially after the return of 715,924 emigrants. Out of these only 38,390 have found employment (5.3%), and 131,064 have returned to education (18.3%). The remainder 546,470 returnees are unemployed (76.4%). The demand for such labor amounts to 100,000 only. This creates surplus manpower at a time when the national economy is not able to create more than 18 to 19 thousand new jobs annually. Numerous problems have emerged and had a negative impact upon the emigrant returnees and their families, and more specifically the women.
- The experience gained by the Yemeni emigrant workers in the oil producing states are not compatible with circumstances and needs of the domestic work market as the gained experiences are mostly in the crafts sphere. Furthermore, the skills gained by the emigrant labor are in industries that are generally not required on a wide scale by the national economy.
- Since the mid-eighties the emigrant labor has turned from crafts and industries to the services and trade sectors.
- Decrease in the numbers of those engaged in commercial activity from 51,920 during emigration to the Gulf to 13,015 persons engaged in such activity after their return.

- Commercial and services activity being linked to an advanced infrastructure in the Gulf states. The returnee emigrant has found this lacking in the Yemen. Immigration had its positive economic aspects, especially by decreasing the number of those engaged in agricultural activity upon return to 0.81%, while it was 3.2% of the overall vocations of the returnee manpower. This is owed to the fact that despite the return of much of the returnee manpower to agriculture, yet many others took entrepreneur work in the building and constructions sector.

24- As for the Yemeni returnee woman, she has faced numerous problems, especially those who lost their spouses after return. The provider of the family has become the returnee woman herself. She faces numerous problems as at a certain age they are not allowed to take up work. Then they have to face the many obstacles stemming from social habits and customs that reject employment of women in certain spheres, such as service at homes or at offices. The housing problem represents one of the most important problems confronting the returnees from the lands of emigration. The main feature of such emigration has been that it was a prolonged family emigration. There is a ratio of emigrants whose material conditions have not allowed them to possess a house in the homeland. Some indicators and statistical data indicate in some reports that nearly 73.6% of the returnees (232,369) out of 318,564 family providers do not have a dwelling.

This situation has resulted in the appearance of random housing in some regions where there is state land, such as Al-Hudeida and Aden. The number of families residing in such housing in those areas is around 12,300. Despite the existence of this phenomena before the Gulf crisis, yet the return of Yemeni emigrants following the crisis resulted in a clear aggravation of this problem. Some surveys show that the number of those residing in random housing in Aden city increased from around 15,000 families before the Gulf crisis to 35,000 families after the Gulf crisis. The most important specific of such families in these regions is their large size as the average number of individuals per family is around 9.6, while the average size of the Yemeni family ranges between 6 to 9 individuals. Some 75% of these families live under the poverty line and primarily depend upon assistance and food contributions.

Unemployment of the able-bodied is 73%, while 12.4% have only temporary work. The ratio of families whose sons have not found employment is 32.6%. This is apart from the need of such returnee emigrants for housing. All of these problems create for the returnee woman and family poor economic and social conditions. Their sharpness is increased when the fixed income opportunities which the family head used to earn during emigration are not available. The most important problems facing the returnee emigrant woman are as follows:-

- Shortages in social and essential services, the most important being:
  1. Halt of investments in construction of new housing owing to the government budget deficit.
  2. Rise in the student to teacher ratio from 60:1 to 75:1 in 1991 and 50:1 in the rural regions.
  3. A rise in the number of school age girls to 157,000 owing to the returnee emigrants with some 28,000 children.
  4. Paucity of social services that could face the problems arising out of the returnee manpower, especially as relates to the productive families program and social development as such centers number only 40 centers.
  5. The meager ability of social welfare services to absorb the needs of the emigrant returnee family and which have become unavailable owing to numerous economic and social factors.

- The problems facing the returnee woman are further compounded by the deterioration of health services, spread of poverty, malnutrition and contagious diseases, especially in the squatter housing areas.

Disabled Women

25. There are no precise statistical indicators on the number of disabled women and girls in the Yemen as is the case with all statistical data related to the disabled in general. Surveys, bulletins and reports indicate that the number of the disabled is 36,852 women and 78,461 men, i.e. a ratio of 47% for women and 53% for men. Furthermore, the illiteracy rate among disabled women is 95%. Disabled children in the Governorates of Aden, Lahej, Abyan, Taiz and Ibb and registered with the rehabilitation centers is 1,032 children.

The state has established two centers to care for the disabled in Sana'a and Aden Governorates. These cater to the blind, the deaf and dumb. Some of them are given YR 500 monthly which is not sufficient even for their transportation. The peripheries center, which relies on domestic industries not consistent with periphery specifications, provides such limbs whose cost may reach YR5,000 or more depending on the type of limb.

National Strategy and Work Plan for Care of the Disabled

26. The Strategy did not take into account the National Work Plan for the Care of the Disabled and the governmental and non-governmental projects. It also neglected the care and rehabilitation programs for the disabled and their integration in society through according them education and qualification and training opportunities.

The tackling of environmental obstacles, architectural barriers as well as the social, cultural and psychological problems was also neglected. There is action to train technical cadres from among women and girls working in the sphere of care for the disabled in caring for the disabled, special education and professional qualification and training. There is also the provision and expansion of medical services at the level of the countryside and the cities at the lowest cost. There is also provision of transportation for the disabled to enable them to reach the peripheries centers that assist in minimizing the appearance of disabilities and enable women to undertake household chores. This is in addition to the dissemination of awareness among the family and in society.

Problems of the Disabled

27. The disabled female has not received health care from her family like her disabled brother. She may be prone to numerous diseases such as genital organs' inflammation, the arching of the backbone and the drying up of limbs. All this increases her suffering and her health deteriorates. As for the cases of marriage the disabled women get married in exceptional cases and depending on the type of disability. The marriage is usually to a man who only needs service. As for the disabled man, he strives after marriage to an ordinary woman to take care of him and bear him sound children. The elderly disabled females lack full family care as they are not acceptable to the family or society. The provision of appropriate services and rehabilitation is commensurate with the type of their disability and their age. Sexual or sensory disability becomes a dual disability as well as a psychological obstacle and they are compelled to live in total isolation from society.

There are numerous qualitative associations concerned with disability issues. The most prominent among them the Challenge Association for the Care of the Disabled established in 1998. However, it is in need of support and backing to effect an uplift in its services for women and girls. It has to enter into a partnership with other association and bodies in the rehabilitation, educational, training, awareness, cultural and guidance programs that are concerned with the elimination of all forms of discriminatory practices against disabled women.

Article (5)
Men and Women and Routine Roles

Cultural or Traditional Practices that Impede women's advance in society

The totality of traditional social and cultural values and the prevalent inherited practices that present women as a creature with lesser abilities than men have had their impact. This has created a gender gap in the various political, economic, social and cultural spheres. This has resulted in the meager and ineffective contribution of females to the social development process, despite the existence of legislation and laws derived from the Islamic Sharia that ensures full human rights for women.

28- Most Important Phenomena Affecting Women's Status and Participation in the Development Process.

a) Low social awareness.
b)Economic subordination to the man.
c)Differentiation between the male and the female. Social insistence on defining the role of the woman as procreation only has personified men's supremacy and made women bear the greater burden when their social and production roles change.
d) Early marriage – The high rate of early marriage among Yemeni females is owed to customs and traditions.

As for the negative impact of economic, social, cultural and environmental pressures on women, these are primarily:

- Limiting girls enrollment in basic, secondary and higher education.
- Drop-outs from school.
- Diseases that subject women's life to danger.
- Social disintegration resulting from divorce issues.

Role of Islam in Improving Women's Status

Islam has determined women's status and obligations within a set of human values (The male and the female believers are guardians of each other, ordering righteousness and barring that which is not righteous", Altawba verse 71). This personifies the equality of men and women in rights, obligations and public responsibilities. It also enshrines the right of choice and decision-making relating to marriage, the right to separation if the woman holds the right to abrogate the marriage or produces evidence of the shortcomings of the husband as regards his duties. She also has the right to disown to be rid of her husband if she finds there is no way for continuing in that status. She has the right to determine the size of the family. She also has the right to demand of the husband that he seek her permission to disown her. The woman's primary function is not restricted to bearing children and managing the home. Islam has allowed her to enjoy her independent economic personality, her full legal eligibility to sell and purchase, engage in agriculture and irrigation, be a physician, teacher, judge and legal adjudicator. The husband may not bar her from that and should take anything from her without her concurrence and that in accordance with Almighty Allah's statement: "Do not wish for yourself that which Allah has bestowed upon each of you; men have their share of what they earn and women have their share in what they earn" (Al-Nisa, verse 32).

Ensuring equality and non-discrimination between men and women's rights has been enshrined in Yemeni legislation and public policies. Article (31) of the 1994 Constitution provides "Women are the siblings of men and have rights and bear obligations as ordained by the Sharia and provided for under the law. Article (41) ensures for citizens the right to contribute to political, economic, social and cultural life.

Men and women in the Yemen play various production, social, cultural and environmental roles. There are vocations that concern women only, such as being mothers, wives and housewives. In the rural regions they undertake fetching water and firewood along with undertaking agricultural work. These are unpaid tasks as socially they are uneconomic activities and are not incorporated within manpower.

Public work is a major factor contributing to the development of Yemeni women's status and the change in their roles. Their participation in this does not exceed 2.5% according to the 1994 census. This is a very small ratio if compared with manpower among men.

The distribution of roles between men and women in Yemen is influenced by numerous factors, which include historical accumulations. Some 71.9% of the females engage within the framework of the household, against 9.5% males, pursuant to the result of 1994 Census. We have to realize here that man has more power in decision making than woman, which is of significance in the process of utilization of resources and proceeds within the household. In any society, the needs of man and woman differ. So, it is necessary that these needs be identified and priorities be set up, which are basically dependent upon the users of the data, statistical indicators and makers of public policies.

Percentage care among women (age 15-44) amounted to 270%, which reflects the effort and time exerted by women in this regard. The percentage of women of the work force amounted to 18.22%, which is attributed to the fact that most women in our society are housewives. In the urban areas, women represent 8.97% of the total work force, while in the rural areas they represent 21.95% of the total. This rise is due to engagement of women in rural areas in agriculture forming 87.24% of the total work force. On distribution of those economically active, by work case, in the urban and rural areas, we find that in urban areas work for wage is concentrated on both sexes, while in rural areas women's work is confined to the household without wage, while all men work for wage.

Women need to improve their conditions in the various fields, particularly in some of the important fields which would enable them to defend their issues and rights, especially those vital issues that touch upon their rights as human beings and their right to participate in sharing the responsibilities to hold posts and positions that would enhance their role.

29. The Aspired Role of Men and Women in Society and Family

- Adopting positive social values and standards that would assist in upgrading the role of woman and her position in the family and society, encouraging public opinion and urging it to handle and support women's issues from an advanced social perspective that would enhance her social position.
- Bringing about a positive change in men's and women's behavior and eliminating reservations that confine women to household duties and raising children.
- Enhancing the opportunities available for educating females through spreading awareness in the importance of girls' education to raise the level of awareness among members of the family and the society as a whole.
- According some concern to intensification of awareness campaigns, family and social education in issues that concern both men and women and bringing to the forefront the significance of their integral roles in all aspects of life.
- Giving more concern to increasing women's opportunities in receiving education, training, qualification and employment to enable them attaining positions of decision making.
- Orienting the information institutions towards concentrating on the significance of the changing roles of men and women in the society and family and accepting women in leadership positions, public, political and professional life, which does not affect the position of man, but is important to secure women's participation in a comprehensive manner in family and society life.

- Comprehensive awareness of the family in the importance of close relations within the family and elimination of comparison between male and female members in the family, which reflects itself negatively on the family and weakens the role and position of women in family and public life and her role opportunities in active participation.

30- Measures adopted to change Social and Cultural Patterns

Being aware of the significance of the change in women's role and position, particularly that which require changing the present conditions to face future challenges, the State, within the text of the Population Work Plan of 1996, which was approved by the National Population Council on 14/7/1997, took upon its shoulders the responsibility of enabling women to improve their social, economic and political positions and enhance their capabilities to participate in decision making at all levels through adopting a number of objectives and actions that will assist in realizing this, viz:

Objectives:

-31-

- Realization and equity between men and women on the basis of harmonious participation in all family and society spheres of life, in the light of the provisions of Islamic Sharia.
- Enhancing women's contribution in sustainable development through their complete participation in policies development and decision making operations and taking an active role in production aspects, as participants and beneficiaries simultaneously.
- Provision of education opportunities for women to satisfy their basic needs.
- Employment of women's full capabilities in order to give them confidence in themselves and their capabilities, commencing from the stage of childhood..

Actions:

32.

- Planning and implementation of awareness information programs for men and women to enhance the positive values realized for treating women with justice and promoting their participation in development.
- Setting up the necessary mechanisms to attain commensurate participation of women and their fair representation at all levels of public and political life.
- Organization of a national campaign for eradication of illiteracy among females, within the comprehensive national campaign.

- Support implementation of rules and regulations that would enable women to combine their duties as mothers, wives and active elements in the society.
- Enhancing school curricula and awareness programs with subjects that would assist in implanting concepts pertaining to respect of girls and women in the minds of the members of the society, beginning at early stages, in addition to understanding the joint responsibilities of both sexes in all aspects of life.
- Educating women in their rights under all laws and legislature, particularly the Personal Status Law, in pursuance of remedying issues that are being looked by the society as deficient and illegible for women to exercise.

Image of Women in School Textbooks and Media:

33. Yemeni information policy has identified the trends of dealing with women's issues. There are efforts being exerted to improve the states of women in school textbooks and information media to rectify the concepts of the role of gender pursuant to the new variables, which are being reflected in the information policy. An information strategy was set up encompassing women's issues from a specific perspective in the various information media and school textbooks to discuss the roles of men and women in a subjective manner, too near to reality, in pursuance of creating a qualitative education to end up discrimination and change the concepts of children about the social, economic and cultural roles assumed by men and women and personifying the same through a project for promoting school curricula. However, these efforts need more support to:

- change the mental and cultural atmosphere that prevails with respect to the role of men and women to modify position and attitudes.
- analyze gender issues and provide data to investigate positions and issues that are characterized for their sensitivity and transparency, which will assist in selecting the information materials and topics that aim at restructuring social and intellectual values compatible with the new variables.
- reflect the significance of handling women's issues through information media, identify the magnitude and causes of the problem and create an atmosphere of public interaction for setting up the appropriate solutions to bridge the qualitative gaps and bring the actual image of women and the important roles assumed by both sexes to the forefront without partiality, in addition to opening a positive dialogue to establish constructive concepts and values for the creation of a sound community intellectual development.
- coordinate thoroughly between the various information media to unify efforts directed towards promoting the status of women and shoring the significance of their participation in family and community life.
- include instructional, family and social programs in information media to disseminate family educational concepts within the framework of MCH, family

planning and reproductive health concepts and the new concepts on the changing functions and roles of women and men that are based on the principle of partnership and cooperation.

Efforts exerted to end stereotypes in determining the roles of women and men:

34.

- The Government, represented by its organs that are concerned with issues of women, and the NGO's strive to set up policies, programs, plans, projects and field social studies that would draw awareness to social gender issues, plan and analyze such issues from a perspective that takes into consideration the needs and differences of gender in all executive programs and projects. Such activities are favored by the Governments' concern and future orientation. They also receive concern of donor international organizations that support women's projects in Yemen. Among the most significant efforts in this field are the following:

- preparation of the national reports on men and women in Yemen (a statistical picture), which was elaborated by the Central Statistical Organization in coordination with ESCWA and aims at presenting a clear picture on the roles of men and women in the light of the statistical indicators and data.
- preparation of the national reports on the status of women, which is elaborated yearly by the Women's National Committee and reflects the status of women in all fields as compared to that of men.
- promoting awareness in the Social role of men and women in the society, identifying the qualitative gaps between them, specially in the positions of decision making, addressing, publishing and analyzing the need for adoption of corrections in the fields of policies and collection of precise data and information.
- implementing the second phase of Beijing project, particularly the social gender issues program, the training program on planning of gender issues and participating in training programs abroad on analysis of social gender issues and planning remedies to handle the qualitative gaps.
- At present, numerous programs and activities are being implemented, in pursuance of handling issues related to ending up practices that are attributed to shortcomings in the community awareness in such issue, the roles and actual needs of women and men, which entail intensification of formal and popular awareness in the significance of eliminating all stereotype traditional cultural practices towards the role of women and men.

Heading the Family under the Law and Prevailing Customs:

35. The matrix of the Yemen values and traditions, that prevail and whose strength is more than that of the law, points out to the importance of the effective role of man in the family and of being at its head in accordance with the criteria, customs and

traditions that are common to urban and rural areas. It is social family system that prevails in most area. But, this doesn't mean that women in Yemen do not head families. In fact, women bear most of the burdens of the family as a result of immigration or death of the husband. The total percentage of households that are being headed by women amounted to 12.8%, which drops to 11.6% in urban areas. Total number of person in these households is more than 10. This against a total percentage of 78.3% of households that are being headed by men in the urban areas and 89.7% in the rural areas, probably attributable to internal migration or external immigration of males for work or education.

Table (6) Shows the number of households, by head of the household in the urban and rural areas.

Particulars	H/H headed by women	Households headed by men	Total
Urban	10.2	89.8	100
Rural	1306	86.4	100
Total	12.8	87.2	100

* Woman & Man in the Republic of Yemen - Statistical Image - CSO

15% of the total number of women live by themselves, away from the family, against 25% of the total number of men. This is due to the fact women accept to live as widows or divorced as the decision of their marriage is not in their hands because of customs and traditions, unlike men. 11.2% of the total number of women in the urban areas live alone and more than 18% of the households that are headed by women in urban areas have 10 or more members.

Works that are Not Allowed to be Exercised by Women:.

36. There is no legal provision that prohibits women from exercising any works. But, it has become customary that certain works may not be exercised by women, such as carpentry, plumbing, quarry and construction works, which require physical efforts. A large percentage of working women engage in the fields of training and agriculture. The following Table shows the reduction rate in contribution of women, as compared to men, in all fields that do not avail them with assuming prominent roles in making the economic decision, which men enjoy a larger space and freedom in decision making, as a result of their high representation in these positions.

Table (7) Shows Women's Participation In the Various Fields*

Field	Women	Men.
Teaching	17.3	92.7
Economic	1.0	99.0
Judicial	13.5	86.5
Courts	2.6	97.4
Social	2.631.0	69.0
Political	6.0	94.0
Parliamentary	0.7	99.3

* Man and Woman in the Republic of Yemen - Statistical Images - CSO

Expected Roles of Sons and Daughters at the level of the Household:

37. The interpretation of roles into practice remains dependant on a number of considerations that prepare the youth of both sexes to change the traditional negative view to the roles of men and women at the level of the household. The general policy of the State the following took into consideration.

- Incorporation of the variable roles of men and women in the general life of the family/household in population education products and concepts.
- Inclusion of social gender issues in the rural family development strategies, programs and projects at the level of both sexes within the framework of the population education project undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Urging The Government institutions that are concerned with Women's and men's issues to establish special units for social gender issues to undertake educating the society in the roles and responsibilities of women and men in public and family life, to ensure involving women, in general, in decision taking positions and active participation of both sexes in setting up the general strategies and policies, planning of projects, analysis of data and collection of information.
- Encouraging the institutions and organs of the civil community, particularly those that are concerned with MCH affairs, national and charitable associations, to implant the sound concepts of family upbringing means from a perspective that takes into consideration the needs of the social gender at all levels.

Responsibility towards Caring for Children:

38. The responsibility towards caring for children in Yemen is entrusted to the family, as indicated under the effective legislation and laws which will be discussed in the context of the report, the most significant of which is the Social Care Law No: (31) of 1996 and amendments thereto, whereby the family undertakes full responsibility to provide all basic needs of life for the child, inside and outside the family. However, the State provided those children, who are deprived of family care, with alternative systems represented by the following:

- Juvenile care centers
- Nurseries
- Kindergartens
- Education and Cultural Institutions
- Educational, cultural and instructional activities and programs.
- Care services for handicapped/disabled and devious children.

Drafting of the Child's Rights Law in Yemen was accomplished. It contains all the general rights of the child, in a way that is compatible with the provisions of the International Convention on Child's Rights and the Arab Declaration.

The ratification of the Law by the concerned authorities and bringing it to light shall assist significantly in changing the conditions of children in Yemen to the better.

Aiding and Caring for children Program:

39. Among the numerous privileges enjoyed by the family, particularly the married women, the widowed mother, abandoned wives, prisoners' families and families of those mentally sick, is that it gets a monthly subsidy up to YR2000, as maximum, in accordance with the provisions of the Social Care Law, which was reorganized and amended to include various family categories, specially the dependant male and female children, those who didn't get married or have any work. It accorded special attention to minors of widowed women, divorced women with children, destitute and poor women.

Table (8) showing the benefit of married women, windows, divorced women and other categories that are related to providing for children

Widow with children	Divorced with children	Family with an absent/lost provider	Prisoner's Family	Total
43855	3317	1719	1190	50081

* Man and Woman in the Republic of Yemen - Statistical Images - CSO

The number of women that are being taken care of by the Fund amounted to 100162 cases of the family category headed by women. The Social Care Law No: (31) of 1996 has cited this category as " Woman without Provider", who bears the responsibility of bringing up the children through the subsidy and support of this Fund, whose monthly total disbursement for such categories amounts to about YR127,209,000).

Table (9) showing the number of other beneficiaries of women from the Fund, as compared to women with children.

Widow without Children	Divorced without children	Spinster	Total
26394	5632	2699	34725

These figures, which may rise here or drop there, do not reflect the weakness of the services accorded by the Fund. They actually show the number of applicants for such benefits and the number of cases approved, which emphasizes the immense need for promotion, complete coverage of the Fund's activities and the quality of services performed to ensure the increase of number of beneficiaries, particularly women who provide for little children, and for being important for provision of family social security, and basic needs to assist them in leading an honorable life.

Concentration on the roles assumed by both sexes indiscriminately from early years, elimination of errors, correction of the views on the role of girls and implanting the social concepts and values from a qualitative perspective shall assist in restructuring the social values with their new understanding in accordance with our positive customs and traditions derived from the Islamic Sharia.

Care Services to Juveniles:

40. Juveniles receive social, educational and psychological services within social guidance institution. In these institutions, juveniles exercise numerous activities in pursuance of rectifying their behavior and modification of their orientation. Juveniles also receive medical care and nutrition programs and are availed with vocational qualification and training, cultural and recreational activities.

As a result of non completion of the structural and institutional infrastructure of the juvenile centers, penal institutions have erected special separate sections for juveniles convicted with formal judgements. These sections are completely separated from prisoners' buildings. But, this social dimension who is supposed to the available to deal with juveniles in these institutions remains absent. Therefore, it is necessary to reconsider the issue of keeping juveniles in these penal institutions and have them accommodated in care and rehabilitation centers, pursuant to the provisions of the Juvenile Law.

There are four juvenile care centers in the Republic of Yemen, i.e in Sana'a, Taiz, Hudeida and Ibb, whose service are directed only towards male juveniles. As for female juveniles, no such centers exist, which compelled the Ministry of Insurance to include in its plan for the next two years the construction of two female juvenile care centers to bridge the gap in this service, which is supposed to be rendered to both sexes without discrimination.

Juveniles are treated and sorted out in accordance with age, kind of offense or crime. Their responsibilities are identified according to the definitions indicated in the Juvenile Law and its provisions with regard to deviation and exposure to it. Juveniles are qualified and trained to enable them become rehabilitated and integrated into social life to achieve the principle of social adoption, in addition to assist them in securing employment after the finish their term in those reformatory institutions.

Intellectual Development Center in Sana'a

41. This center accords scientific knowledge to disabled and handicapped children in accordance with the educational curricula of the Ministry of Education through signals, lip gesticulation, educational and social programs and activities, such as sports functions, scientific and recreational excursions, reading in school libraries and video films, but with special focus on the various occupation, such as carpentry, upholstery, sewing and computer applications. The total number of students in this center is 392, males and females.

Physically Handicapped Center - Aden:

42: This Center accords rehabilitation services to those physically handicapped in various fields, such as secretarial work, carpentry, manufacturing of artificial limbs, sewing, skin work…….etc. It holds exhibitions for such products from time to time and operates illiteracy eradication classes for the handicapped. The total number of students in this center is 392, males and females.

Handicapped Center - Taiz (for the Deaf & Dumbs):

43. This center teaches the student by signals. The total number of students in this center at present is 800, males and females.

Zabid Center for the Deaf and Dumb.

44. This center accords the same services as those of Taiz. Total number of students in this center is 45, males and females.

Care for and Qualification Projects of Handicapped:

45. The qualifying program, within the framework of the community, is a system for according qualification services at all levels, i.e local and national levels. It is considered as on of the modern strategies for dealing with the handicapped. Social qualification (CBR), in its broad concept, involves active participation of all agencies concerned with care, such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training.

Community Qualifications Program (CBR) in Taiz and Lahj:

46. Lahj Governorate:
172 handicapped children are being qualified. There are 68 cases that require a follow up system and 20 cases that require a referral system.

Taiz Governorate:
389 handicapped children are being qualified. There are 68 cases that require a referral system and 35 that require follow up. The program is expected to be extended to other areas, such as Hagda, Ramadah and Hagez. About 21 employees were trained to start qualifications and training of handicapped children in these areas in 1995/96. An extension process is underway for this project to new areas.

Early Household Intervention Project:

47: This is one of the ongoing projects which has started in 1993 with the assistance from the Child Arab Fund and support of the State. However, the project has come to a standstill due to lack of qualified cadre for the training process and lack of financial allocations, too. The project has accorded services to 56 male and female handicapped children.

Sana'a/Aden Centers Support Project:

48: The first part of this project pertains to community qualification in areas close to cities, such as Thula, in which the number of handicapped children is being inventorized, to prepare the local community to work side by side with the State. Centers are now under preparation and the primary materials have already been brought to sites.

Article (6)

Trading in Women and driving them to Prostitution

49: When we speak about the social position from prostitution in an Islamic country, Like Yemen, two important aspects should be taken into consideration: the religious aspect and the social aspect.

These two aspects determine the social position from the issue of prostitution. For example, the religious aspects, which relies on the Islamic principles in assessing social conduct, forbids all forms of prostitution decisively. It also forbids all that makes it look desirable, which emerges from the Sharia's concern to urge on adopting nobility of character and calls to supporting families that embrace such nobility. The religious aspect also organizes sexual relations between man and woman within a legal framework (marriage) in pursuance of satisfying the sexual desire and maintain continuation of life and human race.

50: The social aspect is thoroughly consistent with the religious one, whereby social practices, traditions and customs reject all forms of prostitution and call to virtue through establishing a family life that is based on respect of both parties of the society (man and woman) for each other pursuant to the principles derived from the Islamic Sharia through various way, viz:

(a) The role of the family in the upbringing and education of children;
(b) The role of the school
(c) The role of the society

51. In short, all those aspects call to adopting virtue and rejecting vice and rejecting vice, in addition to implanting values for organizing the family within the general noble conduct of the Islamic Society through assisting man and women to acquire those values of the society's customs and traditions. This makes man in Yemen, in general, reject all that insults his or her personality, be that through prostitution or other undesirable act, because, since childhood, man looks ambitiously towards achieving a social life characterized by resects from both sexes. This does not mean that vice, represented by prostitution, rape or the like, doesn't exist in the Yemen society. But trading in women and driving them to prostitution is not an acceptable issue by the society and is condemned by all punitive legislation, based on the stance of the Islamic Sharia and the customs of the society.

52. In Yemen, there exist no legislation or laws that organize trading in women or allowing prostitution, which is attributed to the religious and social positions that reject and forbid such matters which abuse the status of women as human being. Trading in women and driving them to prostitution is a matter that violates the human

rights of women. The Yemeni society emphasizes establishment of organized family life (through marriage). Prostitution is legally unpermitted and there are no laws that organize it. The Yemeni legislator, through the Crimes and Punishment Law No: (12) of 1994, has condemned prostitution it its Chapter (4) of Part (11) pertaining to adultery and corruption of morals. Article (277) of the Law defines adultery and prostitution as " Commitment of an act that abuses honor and contravenes the Sharia for spoiling manners of others or for illicit gain".

Article (278) on punishment for committing adultery or prostitution provided the following: "Any person exercising adultery or prostitution shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding 3 years or with fine".
Article (281) of the same Law condemns operating any place for prostitution and provided as follows: " Any person operating a place or a house for adultery or prostitution shall be punished with imprisonment for 10 years. In all cases such a place or house shall be closed down for a period not exceeding 2 years and all furniture and other things found during the exercise of prostitution be confiscated".
Article (279) condemns instigation for committing adultery or prostitution and provided as follows:
" Whosoever instigates others to commit adultery or prostitution shall be punished with imprisonment for a period exceeding 3 years. If a crime occurs as a result of such instigation, punishment shall not exceed seven years of imprisonment. But, if the instigated culprit is less than 15 yeas of age and the instigator relies on adultery or prostitution for his or her living, the punishment of the instigator may reach 15 years imprisonment. If the instigator all practices adultery or prostitution and instigates other to follow pursuit, the punishment may also not exceed 15 years of imprisonment.

It may be concluded that the issue of promoting for sexual services is inexistent and inconsistent with the religious, social legal positions, which forbid trading in women and driving them to prostitution. Promoting for sexual services is form, directly or indirectly, is forbidden and all means that assist in trading with women or driving them to prostitution are refused. Selling of women, in Yemen, for the purpose of exploiting them sexually is forbidden, which is consistent with the position of Islamic Sharia that also forbids slavery. Article (248) of the Crimes and punishment Law No: (12) 1994 provides as follows:

" Whosoever:
- Buys, sells or presents a human being as a gift;
- Brings into the country or takes away a person out of it for the purpose of trading with it.

shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years.

There position of the Yemeni society in this matter, as expressed in laws, social values and principles of Islamic Sharia, doesn't emerge as an adherence to international conventions to which Yemen is signatory, but as a stance that emerges from Islamic religion and social customs through the successive phases of history.

Article (7)

Political and Public Life.

53. After unification of both sectors of homeland on 22 May 1990, women have joined man in the referendum on the constitution in 1991 and in managing the first legislative elections after unification, in 1993. The decree concerning the formation of the Supreme Election Committee included the name of one women only. Women committees were also formed to supervise over the parliamentary election, corresponding to those of men, due to the significance of participation of women in the process. It was difficult for many women to exercise their right to election in mixed committees with men. The parliamentary elections of 27 April constituted a step forward with regard to women's participation and driving them to register their name in election registers.

Table (10) showing the number of registered persons in the elections of 1993/1997, out of the total population of the Republic.

No: of persons registered in 1993 elections				No: of persons registered in 1997 election			
Male	%	Females	%	Male	%	Females	%
2209944	82%	478790	10%	3364796	73%	1272073	27%
Total 2688734				Total 4636796			

54. Women have participated in the parliamentary, elections during two sessions. In the elections of 1993/1997. the number of women candidates in the first session of the parliamentary elections was 41 (1993) and 23 (1997). Two women candidates won seats in each election session.

Local Monitoring of Elections:

55. Women's role in monitoring the fairness of elections was remarkable and secured the most prominent local data declared at the national level by the Supreme Popular Committee for Monitoring Fairness of Elections, in which two women have participated and held the positions of Assistant Secretary General.
Women were also represented in the Elections Monitoring Committee. Additionally, the team that has assisted the international monitors included two women, whose participation was vital to the success of the task of the team, locally and internationally. Thousands of women participated in monitoring the fairness of the elections of 1993/1997 at the level of the country as a whole.

Participation in Political Parties:

56. Although the percentage of the women that have registered in the elections tables represents not more than 36.8%, yet female participation density represented an open message to all political parties and organizations that democracy has created out of women a real political power in the arena, which cannot be ignore; and that any political party neglecting it dooms itself with failure.
In accordance with the Political Parties and Organizations Law, parties have to present lists to the Parties Committee with signatures of not less than 2500 persons for political declaration of a party. Such lists of the Peoples' General Congress contained 37 names of women, that of the Yemeni Reform Congregation (ISLAH) 20 names, that of the Arab Ba'th Social Party 78 names, that of Al-Naseri Democratic Party 30 names and of Al-Naseri Al-Wahdawi 48 names.

Women succeeded in securing posts in the Presidential offices, where 40 women at present are engaging in various posts; some of them are advisors holding positions of Vice-Ministers, Seven holding positions of Deputy Ministers, and others are distributed among various departments and committees, such as the Boards Committee, and other posts like the Directors of Economic Cooperation and Secretary of the National Peace Committee, researchers, specialists .. etc. The percentage of working women, as compared to men, is about 20%.
It may said that women have attained posts that are at the top of the political hierarchy, which reflect a positive phenomenon for all women who hold qualifications and ambition.

Participation in the Government:

57. Before realization of the Yemeni unification, only one woman held the post of a Vice Minister of Culture and Information in Aden. The same woman held the post of a member of State Presidium Bureau during the period 1986-1990. One women holds the post of Chairman of the General Insurance Corporation, three as Assistant Deputy Ministers, which are supreme executive posts, and six women as Advisors to Ministers. Women also engage in leadership posts in the Government, whereby 47 of them hold posts as specialists and department heads. One of them holds a position of a Minister and 95 posts of General Directors in various supreme Government posts. All these changes took place after the year 1990, which is the year of the Yemeni unification.

Participation in Local Bodies:

58. Women's participation in local Government bodies, in both sectors before unification, was limited. Conditions have changed, as the new political system of the Republic of Yemen adopted democracy, political and party pluralism. The increasing numbers of women participating in the parliamentary elections of 1997 represented an open message to all political parties and organizations. The women sector, with its unions and associations, can form an intensive pressing power to enable the largest possible number of women to secure seats in local councils. This is the only method to increase the number of female members in the Parliament, as membership to local councils forms the way to the Parliament. What is so significant here is that women must know what they really want and to assume effective roles to attain suitable presence in these organs. However, such elections are not expected to take place before two years as of release of this report.

Participation in Trade Union Work:

59. Representation of women in this field is still limited, when compared to that of men, despite the fact that trade union work opens for women broad horizons to enter the work arenas in public life. Statistical data and indicators reflect this limited representation of women in membership of trade unions and leadership trade unions bodies at 15% only, participation in trade union branch bodies at 10% and in the Central Council of the trade union at 11 members out of 115, i.e 10%. There isn't even one female member to the Executive Office of the Labor Trade Union. However, a committee of 5 members was formed for working women.

In general, women participation in this important field is very limited, if compared to that of men, in all formations of the Union, which is attributed to several reasons, viz:

- Recency of women's participation in this field.
- Contention of some women in the unfeasibility of participation in trade union works as a result of their short sight of the significance of such works.
- Control of men over the leadership positions in the trade unions, depriving women from participation in these positions, which weakens the rate of their participation.

However, it may be said that the Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic, and other union formations that fell within its framework and to which women are affiliated realized, as of late, the necessity of participation of women in trade union works and availed them with a limited space of freedom of joining trade unions. But, still, women did not reach the level of participation in supreme leadership bodies, in which their existence shall form an effective factor in the interest of the rights of working women and promote their participation in public life.

Governmental and Non-Governmental Institutions concerned with Upgrading of, and Caring for, Women:

60. Governmental and Non-Governmental institutions that aim at consolidating progress of women acquired clear attention in the 1990's. Despite some previous efforts by the Government that have contributed towards the creation of some mechanisms and programs directed for enhancing the role of women, Yet there are still some shortcomings in those mechanisms and programs. We shall indicate, hereunder, some of the mechanisms that have been established recently after the emergence of the unified State. These are divided into tow parts; governmental and non-governmental.

Governmental Mechanisms and Programs:

The General Directorate for Development of Rural Women:

61- This Directorate was established in 1988 as a department affiliated to the Directorate of Plant Production and was transformed to a General Directorate on 26/4/1999.

The General Directorate of Mother and Child Affairs:

62. This Directorate was established in 1990 and is affiliated to the Social Development Sector in the Ministry of Insurance and Social Welfare.

The General Directorate of Productive Families:
63. This Directorate was established in 1990 and is affiliated to the Social Development Sector in the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs.

Empirical Research and Women Studies Center:
64. This Center was established in 1994 as a social research and women studies unit financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It was transformed into a women's research and studies center and operates under the supervision of the rector and senate of Sana'a University.

The Yemeni Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood Care:

- 65. This was formed by Republican Decree No: (321) of 1999, presided over by the Prime Minister. It has a number of members, who direct relation with the policies and programs that are concerned with mother and child care, procedures and means of protection of child's rights at all levels. Its yearly budget is YR1,500,000, which is expected to rise to YR4,000,000, to meet the future plans and programs.

National Women Committee
66. The National Women Committee was formed by the Prime Minister's Decree No: (98) of 1996. Its members include representatives from various Governmental, non-Governmental, academic agencies, political parties and social personalities. However, the institutional nature of the work of the Committee entailed restructuring the responsibilities entrusted to it. The relevant resolutions retarding the tasks of the Committee and its re-formation were issued. At present, the restructuring process in ongoing in a manner consistent with the current and prospective changes.

Men and Women Statistics Department in CSO:
67: This Department was formed in 1997. At present, it coordinates actively with the departments concerned with women's affairs and collects data and statistics that pertain, to both, women and men, to secure a database and indicators on the issue of gender.

General Directorate of Development of Working Women:
68: This Directorate was established in 1997 to handle working women's issues. It receives attention from the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, being created to achieve the objectives for which it was established. However, no budget was allocated to it till now.

Supreme Human Rights National Committee:
69. This Committee was established in 1998 to handle human rights issues. It is formed of Ministers and leadership official and has no female members till now.

Women's Department in the General Secretariat of the National Population Council:

70. This Department was established in 1998 and is being supervised by the General Directorate of Planning of the General Secretariat of the National Population Council. Its competence is confined to collection of statistics and data pertaining to women.

Social Gender Project Planning Unit in the Social Development Fund:

71: This Unit was established very recently, 1998, and receives the attention of the Social Development of the Social Development Fund. It pursuits supporting small income generating enterprises.

Non-Governmental Mechanisms and Programs:

Yemeni Women Federation:

72. This Federation was established in 1990 and enjoys financial and administrative autonomy. Its annual budget is YR1 million, distributed among its branches equally. These branches have coordination mechanisms with the Government. However, the Federation requires reorganization of its activities, policies and programs to become an effective organization.

Social Association for Family Development:

73: This Association was established in 1990 with an annual budget of YR240,000. International support for the financing of its activity amounts to YR2 million. Coordination with the concerned agencies and organizations is carried out by the administrative body which is managed by a number of social donor women and girls. The number of its members is 50 and its administrative is made of 9 members.

Handicapped Women Committee:

74. This Committee was established in 1993. It has originated from the Care for Physically Handicapped General Assembly and operates under is supervision, administration and budget, which is estimated at YR480,000 per year. The British Oxfam and the Swedish Rada Barnen organizations assist in financing some of the activities of the Committee.

Women and Child Department at "Al-Mustakbal" Studies Center:

75. This Department was established in 1996 and enjoys financial and administrative autonomy which is inconsistent with the nature of the role entrusted to its objectives. Its annual budget is YR 100,000, which is too small to meet the plans and activities envisaged by its administration.

Social Association for Productive Families:

76. This was established in July 1997. The number of its members is 220 and operates only at the level of Sana'a and Hajja Governorates.

Women and Child Development Association:

77. This Charitable Association was established in 1997. It is of a voluntary nature and depends for financing its programs and activities on subscription of members and donations of businessmen. It implements its various activities by using a mechanism of generalization of projects to all fields of its work.

National Association for MCH:

78. This Association was established in 1997. Its primary objective is caring for mother and child health. For its YR500,000 budget, it depends on international organizations and the private sector.

Committee for opposing violence against Women:

79. This Committee was established in December 1997 and aims at the following:

- Consideration and documentation of general and special cases of violence against women;
- Cooperation and coordination with the concerned agencies and human rights bodies that oppose all forms of violence.

" Al-Tahaddi" Care for Handicapped Women Association:

80. This is a national charitable Association which was established in1998 and is concerned with caring for handicapped women.

Cooperative Rural Women Development Department:

81. This was established in January 1999 under the supervision of the Agricultural Co-operative Federation. It aims at:

- Encouraging establishment of women agricultural cooperatives to find employment opportunities and preparing economic feasibility studies for women co-operative projects.

The Prime Minister has addressed a letter, reference No: PM60/2 dated 3/4/1999, to the various Ministries regarding establishment of a department for women in each of them. This was an initiative called for the Women's National Committee in the field of consolidating participation of women in decision taking positions.

A number of women's charitable association were established since 1995 and all of them are concerned with caring for women and qualifying them health wise, socially, educationally and economically, in addition to promoting women's capabilities and improving their living standard. Among those association and institutions are the following:

- Al-Wed women Charitable Association
- Al-Safa Women Charitable Association
- Ithar Women Charitable Association
- Al-Khulood Women Charitable Association
- Al-Bushra Women Charitable Association
- Al-Huda Women Charitable Association
- Al-Muroo'ah Women Charitable Association
- Al-Nidhal Women Charitable Association
- Women Sustainable Development Association
- Al-Wafa Women Charitable Association
- Arab Sisters Forum
- Bir-al-Azab Women Charitable Association
- Yemen Medicine Rationalization Association
- Martyr Fadhl Al-Halah Institute for Blind Women
- Al-Tahaddi Care for Handicapped Women Association
- Women and Child Social Association
- Al-Khaled Charitable Association
- Mirab Social Charitable Association
- Yemeni Consumer Protection Association
- Handicapped Friends Association
- Bir-al-Shayef Charitable Association

82. Activities of these Association concentrate on implementing qualifying, training and educational policies, programs and plans. They are not different from previous Associations in the context of their interest, strategic objectives and general orientation.

Upgrading the conditions of these institutions that are concerned with women's issues requires proper guidance of policies and initiation of the following actions:

- Activation and facilitation of cooperation between the Governmental and Non-Governmental Women's institutions to reduce duplication of tasks and exploitation of the limited national resources within the partnership and cooperation concept for drawing polices and programs at the levels of implementation of projects and programs.

- Concentration on the activities of these formal and informal institutions to expand their programs and services to all local levels to ensure expansion of extension base of projects to rural and distant areas that are in immense need of these services.

- Involvement of the Council of Representatives (Parliament), Local Council, Judicial Authority and Private Sector, being institutions that assume an effective role in promoting the conditions of women to servile and record progress achieved at the national level and monitor implementation level of obligations undertaken by the Government towards execution of Beijing Document and application of the international convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women through achieving a state of equilibrium between men and women in all fields.

The elaboration of this report represents one of those major concerns created between the Governmental and Non-Governmental institutions in the context of an organized work, taking into consideration the integrated efforts that represent an extension for the plans and programs directed towards unifying endeavors to minimize duplication of activities and programs of these institutions, in addition to coordinating and organizing current and future efforts.

- Integration of women's issues in all polices and programs through coordination and sectoral cooperation at the formal institutions level, with regard to data, information and statistical indicators relating to both sexes; or informal institutions which should include in their policies this issue that has started at present to secure significance in the activities of the Governmental and Non-Governmental institutions and the private sector, and needs more support in the future from those who set up the development policies and also decision makers to enhance the coordination efforts in this field in a way that would serve the issues of both sexes in the sustainable national development programs.

- Setting up formal and informal national mechanisms to involve the information media in upgrading the coverage rate of campaigns oriented towards raising awareness in social gender issues, in a manner that leads to reconsideration of the standard image of women and the responsibilities of men and women from a perspective that takes into consideration the family and community needs for their roles that are imposed by the necessities of life and requirements of economic, social and human development, which receive some attention at present, but require to be made aware of, from a point of view that takes into account the actual needs of both sexes in the development policies, plans and programs.

Article (8)

Official Representation and Participation in Bodies.

83. Due to circulation of patterns of social concepts and values, it was envisaged until recently that it would be possible for women to secure posts in the diplomatic corps. But, as a result of development of the women's sector and the increase in the number of qualified and specialized women, it became possible that such posts be filled women. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there are, at present, 3 female ambassadors, 4 female holding posts Ministers plenipotentiary, 7 advisors, 3 holding posts of First Secretaries and 1 diplomatic attaché.

Article (9)

Nationality

84. The Yemeni legislator, through the organization of the provisions of nationality, observed not to discriminate between men and women. Women enjoy the same rights of men in acquiring the Yemeni nationality, Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Nationality Law No: (6) of 1990.

85. Through the Nationality Law No: (6) of 1990, which was issued on 26 August 1990, immediately after unification of both Sectors of Yemen, the Yemeni legislator adopted several criteria for the identification and acquisition of the Yemeni nationality. These are criteria that are based on specifics that pertain to the Yemeni Society, like other societies that maintain their own specifics, viz:

(a)On the basis of blood right (absolute blood right), whereby, for verification of nationality, the legislator adopted the blood right by birth for a father holding this nationality.

Article (3), paragraph (2) of the Nationality Law provides as follows:
" Whosoever:
(a) is born to a father enjoying the Yemeni nationality;
(b) is related by blood associated by the right of the region;

shall enjoy the Yemeni nationality"

The legislator has also adopted the criterion of blood right from the side of the mother, for verification of the Yemeni nationality. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Article (3) of the Law provide as follows:

"Whosoever:
(a) is born in Yemen to a mother holding the Yemeni nationality and a father with an unknown or no nationality;
(b) is born in Yemen to a mother holding the Yemeni nationality and whose relationship to his or her father is not established legally;
shall enjoy the Yemeni nationality."

(c)Other criteria adopted for acquiring the Yemeni nationality based on birth in Yemeni regions and other criteria that are based on naturalization and mixed marriage, Articles 4, 5, and 11 of the same Law.

86. The above mentioned Nationality Law, in its Articles (10) and (12), indicates that if a Yemeni lady gets married to a Muslim foreigner, she would maintain her nationality, unless she desires to surrender it and expresses such a desire at the time of getting married or during the matrimonial period, provided that the country of her husband accepts granting her its nationality. If the marriage of such a lady proves to be invalid, she would still retain her Yemeni nationality.

Additionally, the acquisition of a Yemeni for another nationality doesn't lead to loss of his wife for her Yemeni nationality, unless she expresses her desire to acquire the new nationality of her husband.

Article (12) of the Law provides as follows:
" The acquisition of a Yemeni for a foreign nationality, when permitted to do so, shall not entail loss of his wife the Yemeni nationality, unless she expresses her desire to acquire the new nationality of her husband. But, the minor children of the couple shall not lose the Yemeni nationality if they acquire the new nationality of their father by affiliation"

87. Article (6) of Law No: (7) of 1990 regarding passports provides that passports and travel documents may be issue pursuant to the provisions of the paragraphs under Article (3) of the same Law for any person above 16 years of age enjoying the nationality of the Republic of Yemen. The provision was general for both men and women. This clearly emphasized in the same Article, which also provides that minor children may also be added to the passport of either parents, if they would join him, or her, on a trip abroad, without reference to any other stipulations pertaining to this matter, in general, which means allowing minors to travel in the same passport of the mother. The Articles also states that a separate passport may be issued to a minor, when necessary, after consent of its parents.

Article (6) of the Passports Law provides as follows:
" Ordinary passports and travel documents indicated under paragraphs 1-4 of Article (3) may be issued to whosoever attains the age of 16 years and enjoys the Yemeni nationality. But, minor children are to be added in the passport of either parents if such minor children are joining the parent on a trip abroad; and a separate passport may be issued to a minor, when necessary, after consent of its parents"

88. Article (11) of the same Passports Law indicates, in general, that any person enjoying the nationality of the Republic of Yemen may leave the Republic and return to it, from places identified for this purpose and by permission of the official in charge, represented by endorsement on the passport or travel document. The law didn't specify any other stipulation else than the above. Prohibition from leaving the Republic is only by an order of the prosecution or the legislature, pursuant to the provisions of Article (12) of the same Law. However, the provisions of Article (13) provide that any person prohibited from travel may object against such a decision before the public prosecution.

Article (12) of the same Law provides as follows:
" The Chairman of Immigration, Passports and Nationality, or any one authorized to act on his behalf, may, on an order of the prosecution or legislature, stop any person from leaving the country, in which case the Immigration Officer in charge shall inform that person of such prohibition. If the passport or travel document has already been endorsed, the Officer may cancel this endorsement."

Article (13) of the same Law provides as follows " Any person who prohibited from travel may, pursuant to Article (12), object against such a decision before the Public Prosecution "

Article (10): Education

Pre-school Education:

89. Kindergartens in Yemen are mixed for both male and female children 3-6 years of age. Education in kindergartens is optional.

The State is concerned with childhood. The number of children enrolled in kindergartens has increased from 12,620 in 1991/92 to 30,548 in 1997/98. The number of female children increased from 6, 013 in 1991/92 to 31,578 in 1997/98.

Table (11) showing the number of female Children in kindergartens during the Period 1991-98*

Year	No: of children			No: of Teachers
	Males	Females	Total	
1991/92	6607	6013	12620	484
1997/98	16970	13578	30548	804

*Education Statistics Book & Results of Education Survey-97/98

The concern accorded to basic and secondary education and the development of a plan to generalize and promote it requires that its development through the past decade be reviewed, quantitatively and qualitatively as follows:

I: Quantitative Growth of Education (Basic-Secondary):

90. The number of pupils in basic education schools increased from 2,05,049, males females, in 1990/91 to 2,878,693 in 1997/98, i.e at 28% approximately. During the past four years (94/95-97/98), this growth rate didn't exceed 10%, i.e at an annual growth rate a little above 2.5%, which is the average.

The number of secondary stage students increased from 134240, males and females, in 1990/91 to 347502 in 1997/98, i.e at an increase of 61% approximately. Enrollment rate of females in basic education has increased from 25% at the beginning of the period to 32% at its end, i.e at a difference of 7%. As for secondary education, enrollment rate of females has increased from 15% in 1990/91 in 1997/98.

Table (12) clarifying enrollment in General Education, by gender, during 1990-1997/98*

Year	Basic Education				Secondary Education			
	Meals	Females	Total	% Female	Males	Females	Total	% Female
1990/91	1534185	516864	2051049	25	113597	20643	134240	15
1997/98	1963205	915488	2878693	25	265106	82396	347502	24

* Education Statistics Book and Results of Education Survey-97/98

The rise in the participation rates of females in secondary education, still below the required level, as compared to males, which is attributable to the low intake capacity of girls' secondary schools and scarcity of female teachers, especially in the rural areas.

In spite of this apparent increase in the number of basic and secondary schools student during the period 1990/91 to 1997/98, yet the percentage of students in the basic and secondary education to the total population remained unchanged until 1994, when the number of basic and secondary education students reached 20, for each 1000 inhabitants, while in 1998 it reached only 187 for each 1000 inhabitants.

Table (13) showing the rates of students in General Education to Total Population.

Years	Total Population	Total Students	Students % to Population
1994	14587807	3052007	20.1
1998	17071132	3192475	18.7

* Education Statistics Book and Results of Education Survey-97/98

Intake Rates at Enrollment Age:

91. The increase in percentage of those registered in grade one of basic education for the period from 1990/91 to 1997/98 was not more than 10%, i.e at annual rate of increase of 1.8 above average. In other words total number of male and female students in 1990/1991 was (314876) and in 1997/1998 (478897). The annual growth rate in the number of children at admission age to grade one of basic education is 8.5%, which means that the growth rate obtained from inputs of basic education has decreased drastically than growth in the total number of children at admission age to basic education (i.e at a rate less than 1.7, which renders population growth in the sector ,of children and the growth in admission to basic education unfavorable to generalization of education.

II: Illiteracy and Adult Education:

92. With the drop in expenditure foe education and the rise in educational loss rates, eradication of illiteracy has become a dream that cannot be attained. Table (14) shows illiteracy rates at the level of urban and rural areas. The national strategy for eradication of illiteracy and adult education, which depended for its data on the Population Census' of 1994, reflected that illiteracy is too high among women and reaches 71% of the total illiterate person in the age category 10-49 years.

Table (14) showing total population of Age Category 10-49 years and the rate Of Illiteracy among the same Category*

Total Population 10-49 yrs.				Total Illiterates 10-49 yrs.			% of female illiterate to total		
Sex	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Population	Rural	Urban
Male	2932090	1212871	4144961	1015288	218518	1233806	30%	82%	18%
Female	2963061	984566	3947627	2447819	384674	2832493	72%	16%	14%
Total	5895151	2194737	8092588	3463017	603192	4066299	50%	85%	15%

* Education Statistics 94/95-97/98, Population Projects.

The State exert painful endeavors to eradicate illiteracy. The national population strategy aims at reducing the percentage of illiteracy to less than 50% among females and 30% among males by the year 2000. However, efforts exerted so far to control illiteracy are limited, compared to the objectives.

Table (15) showing development in enrollment To Eradication of Illiteracy Classes.

Year	1991	1998
Males	45751	12530
Females	38146	22275
Total	79897	34805

- Education Statistics Book and Education Survey Results 97/98 - Ministry of Education

From the above Table, the number of enrolled persons during the past years, for both males and females, was due the country has passed, particularly after 1994, which led to the rise in illiteracy during the following years, together with a rise in educational loss, represented by the phenomena of failure and drop out from basic education and in addition to the incapability of public education to accommodate all those in the learning age.

The high illiteracy rate among females, as compared to males, is attributed to a number of factor, the most significant of which are the following:

1- Deprivation of women of all rights, including education, in the past times, prior to the 1960's.
2- The spreading of some customs, traditions and social concepts that prohibit women from receiving education.
3- The economic and social conditions that compel families to deprive females from continuing their education to exploit their labor at home and in agriculture.
4- Early marriage, specially in rural areas.
5- The sharp drop-out in the basic education stage, specially after fourth grade.

Vocational and Technical Training.

Formal Training:

93. Admission to this training is after completion of the basic education stage, in institutions that are either mixed or for female student only.

Girls have had ample opportunities to join some vocational fields, viz.

- Industrial vocational education: female participation in this field amounted to 16% of the total number of students.
- Agricultural vocational education: The number of enrolled females amounted to 13% of the total number of students.
- Fisheries vocational education: The number of enrolled females amounted to 6% of the total number of students.
- Commercial education: Percentage participation of females reached 50% of the total number of students.
- Health education: Percentage participation of females reach 38% of the total number of students.

94. There are numerous agencies that undertake vocational training of females at the levels of the rural and urban areas, such as the basic and women training centers of the illiteracy eradication organ, which are found at the level of all Governorates. These centers are opened particularly in rural areas, where the illiteracy rate is high in order to link the programs of eradication of illiteracy with the vocational skills and in pursuance of encouraging continuation of illiteracy eradication classes.

There are also twenty productive families and community development centers. Other centers are:

- Handicapped females qualifying center
- Women qualifying centers affiliated to political parties, women unions and associations.
- Cultural health, youth and agricultural centers affiliated to official agencies.
- Women qualifying centers affiliated to the private sector
- Rural women development centers.

Higher Education:

95. The evolution of higher education in Yemen goes back to the early 1970's when both Sana'a and Aden Universities were opened in 1970 and 1971, respectively. Total number of students in both universities was 167, of both sexes. Academic education witnessed an accelerated progress by the year 1994/95, whereby the total number of students amounted to 6955.

Higher education has gone through a transitional phase through the participation of the private sector in financing education by opening a number of non-profit universities to assist in accommodating the huge number of secondary school graduates. Despite its scarce resources, the State supported students studying abroad in rare fields of specialization. Tables (16) and (17) reflect the large disparity between both sexes with regard to enrollment or graduation for the following reasons:-

- The increase in the enrollment percentage of females in the field of education sciences due to the establishment of a faculty of education in each Governorate of the Republic.
- The low enrollment level females in higher education due to concentration of the universities in the Governorate capitals and scarcity boarding sections for females.
- The shorting in the information media to make the society aware of the importance of this kind of education.

Table (16) showing student percentage, by Sex, and field of study for the years 1994/95 and 1995/96.*

Year	1994/95		1995/96	
Field of study	Females	Males	Females	Males
Education Sciences	39.3	40.0	30.7	39.4
Law	3.2	18.7	4.2	22.5
Eco. Business Admin.	7.6	12.9	10.0	16.0
Applied Sciences	22.7	8.3	19.8	3.9
Medicine and Health Sciences	5.7	2.7	5.8	2.7
Engineering	2.8	3.2	1.7	2.5
Agriculture	0.6	1.4	0.7	1.2
Arts (others)	18.1	13.0	22.1	11.8

* Women and Men in the Republic of Yemen - Statistical Image - CSO - MPO - Statistical Book 1998.

Table (17) showing the Percentage of Female Graduates and Professionals, by Specialization*

Year	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96
Sciences	36.4	35.0	30.0	70.3	18.0
Medicine	50.0	42.2	46.6	33.2	28.2
Engineering	20.6	16.4	20.6	13.3	12.2
Agriculture	6.6	3.1	7.0	7.5	6.6
Total	82.8	26.6	30.1	27.7	22.6

* Women and Men in the Republic of Yemen - Statistical Image - CSO - MPO - Statistical Book 1998.

Participation of Females in Teaching Profession:

96. The significance of females education may be measured through their actual participation in the teaching activity. From the statistics pertaining to female participation in the teachers of both sexes could easily be observed, whereby this percentage represents only 17.2 against 92.7 for males at the level of basic education. As for the secondary stage, female percentage is 22.8 against 77.2 for males for the same year. This percentage may appear reasonable under the existing differences in education opportunities, in general, and preparation of teachers, in particular. But, this percentage reflects some negativity, if we take into consideration that most of these female teacher are holders of medium qualifications (secondary level), in addition to the fact that most of them are concentrated in the capitals of main cities. A number of these female teachers do not stay in the teaching profession after the prescribed period of service (5 years) due to the low material incentives to those engaging in the teaching profession.

We also find that the southern and eastern Governorates enjoy a high percentage is low in the northern and western Governorates, especially the remote areas, where such shortage is compensated by employing non-Yemeni female teachers. In the secondary stage, particularly. the low percentage of females in the teaching staff has an adverse effect, represented by the limitation of girls attendance to, and continuation of, education for social considerations that reject contract of girls at this age category wit males, even if those were teachers. Despite the presence of females in the field of teaching, yet there is a large shortage in the number of female administrators all the level of the school, are or Governorate offices. The percentage of female administrators in the education line is about 11.5 only, out of the total number of administrators- a percentage that has no effect in the administrative or political decision on the development of female education. At the level of school directresses, the number of those holding the post of directress, deputy directress and supervisors amounted to 764 in the basic education schools, i.e 47% of the total number of female employees in the administrative organ of the basic education stage, as compared to 43.6% of the total number of female employees in the administrative organ of the secondary stage.

School Buildings:

97. Should buildings grow at weak rates that are inconsistent with the growth rates in the number of students and schools, which increased at 15%. Reports on school buildings indicate that among 13006 schools. about 1492 have no buildings and more than 8247 schools need repairs. This constitutes one of the factors that lead to refraining from education, especially the females, due to remoteness of schools from the residential congregation, more particularly in the rural areas, beside the scarcity of toilets, scientific laboratories and other unfavorable conditions that encourage females to refrain from education.

School Activities:

98. School activities are exercised by male and female students among the school periods. There are no limitations that restrict females from exercising physical education at schools.

Teaching Life Fundamentals, including Family Planning:

99. The Republic of Yemen has set the issue of caring for the mother and child among the priorities of its general policy. Through the school curricula, the Ministry of Education has endeavored to introduce health and environmental concepts to school curricula, which are prescribed for all those affiliated to general education, males and females.

Most Important elements of Differentiation in the Filed of Education:

1. Distribution of Schools by Sex:

100. Out of the total number of schools, 24.8% forms male schools, 10.3% forms female schools and 64.3% forms mixed schools. In the basic education stage mixed schools accommodate 70% of the total number of students, 29.7% of them are females. The percentage of female students in the basic education is 65.9. As for the about 15.9% of the total number in mixed schools and 33.1% of the total number of students in both education stages, in general.

2. Insufficient Number of Schools and the Weak Level of Education:

101. The significance of females education may be measured through their actual participation in the teaching activity. From the statistics pertaining to female participation in the teaching activity during the year 1996/1997. The law percentage of female researchers to the total number of teachers of both sexes and their low participation in the teaching staff of the general stages of education could easily be observed. Female teacher engaging in these stages are concentrated in the main cities. Apparently, the expansion that took place in this field occurred in an unprompted manner, mostly on the expense of quality, and entailed presence of a significant percentage of teacher with inadequate qualification. The case as such, it becomes of immense importance that teacher be prepared and trained before joining the teaching profession so that they keep in contact with the development of the education process.

Eighth: Policies and Measures to realize Strategy objectives:-

102- (Kindly see the other diskette where the Table is printed, File Name NWC 3, and forms pages 54 - 61)

Policies and Measures to realize Strategy objectives:-

Policy	Justifications	Measures	Participating Official Agencies
1.Family awareness of importance of girls education	*Ignorance of importance of girls education and its benefit at the level of the individual, the family and society. *General attitude towards girls education some of which rest on erroneous concepts. * Uplift of girls education requires marshalling of resources and voluntary work out of complete conviction.	*Adopt a plan to make the family aware of the importance of girls education either through direct or indirect methods. *Activate the role of the school in the local environment so that male and female teachers play their roles in disseminating education awareness and importance of girls education. *Form local teams to arouse awareness of importance of girls education and train them in the methods and means of undertaking their tasks. * Grant attention to the role of mosques in arousing awareness of the importance of girls education.	*Ministry of Education *Ministry of Information *Ministry of Culture * Associations, clubs and Youth and Women unions *Local authorities.
.Compensate families for lost opportunities owing to enrolling girls at schools	*Reduced income level of most families in rural regions *Family sensing of loss when enrolling daughters at school through loss of their work on the one hand and paying schooling costs	*Direct food and supplies subsidies projects to girls enrolling at school and their families *Exempt girls from school fees and costs *Local authorities to encourage national capital that supports families whose daughters enroll at school	*Ministry of Education *Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs *Chambers of Commerce and Industry *Ministry of Labor *Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform

	on the other *Unavailability of work opportunities for girls after graduation.	*Direct some support from international organizations to encourage families to enroll their daughters at school and train them in skills and crafts that ensure an increase in income and improvement of living standards.	
3. Increase number of female teachers	*Absence of compatibility between need to raise enrollment rates and number of female teachers *Not benefiting from employing female education outputs in the regions that lack female teachers *Female teachers avoiding work in rural regions	*Approve a plan to establish female teachers qualification and training institutes in rural regions according to levels of education establishments out-puts *Mobilize female education outputs to join teaching profession in their residential congregations *Increase number of post scales allocated for female teachers and link their filling to teaching in rural schools accorrding to need for female teachers *provide material, moral and post incentives for rural female teachers *Encouraging women to transfer for work from urban to rural areas. *Open job promotion chances for female teachers to attain higher educational positions such as	*Ministry of Education *Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform *Ministry of Finance *Local Authorities *Faculties of Education

		guidance and administration	
4.Raise qualitative standard of female teachers	*Incompatibility between the professional standard of female teachers and tasks assigned to them., especially in rural areas *Multiplicity of female teachers' tasks in the rural area *Incompatibility of standard of qualification and training with education and training needs in rural areas * Sense of absence of benefit from girls education.	*Adopt an in-service female teachers training plan and link professional and function promotion to it *Adopt training programs for female teachers that agree with the tasks assigned to the rural female teacher, such as teaching in compound classes, adult education, social guidance service, designing and managing extra-curricular activities and handicrafts	• Ministry of Education • Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform • Local Authorities
5. Avoiding co-education	*Co-education is one cause of the low level of girls enrollment in many areas *There is disparity between regions as to extent of opposition to co-education *There is a difference as regards age at which co-education is to be permitted *Continue spreading co-education in basic education schools	*Operate public schools in two shifts, one of them for girls *One wing of the school with its classes at large schools to be allocated for girls along with proper school arrangements *Build independent schools for girls where the high population density requires that. *Build separate classrooms for girls *Reconsider design of school buildings and use local building materials and provide investments in favor of girls education	*Ministry of Education *Local authorities

6. Feminization of teaching staff in the first four grades according to receptivity of local communities	*Acceptance of co-education by guardians is linked to presence of female teachers in some areas and to first grades of basic education *Need of children for special care and awareness of ways of dealing with them in the beginning of joining school *Difficulty of building separate classes in some regions and the necessity to resort to co-education.	*Adopt appointment of female teachers for the first four grades of basic education in areas where this is easy and acceptable *Distribute surplus female teachers in cities to teach the first four grades and use male teachers in needy areas. *Grant priority of employment to female teachers if there is need for teaching of the first four grades.	*Ministry of Education *Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform *Local authorities.
7.Provide school building at site with facilities	*Enrollment of girls at school is affected by site of the school and distance that must be covered to and from school. *Location of schools in markets and gathering centers frightens guardians from sending their daughters to school. *Non-recognition of girls education reality and impediments thereto when constructing schools. *Availability of school facilities, such as health	*Construct schools and classrooms according to statistics and data that give consideration to the reality of, and impediments before, girls education. *Construct schools and classrooms at sites near population congregations, far from peoples' gathering sites. *Prepare a school map for distribution of girls school buildings or give regard to that when preparing school site distribution map.	*Ministry of Education *Education Projects Implementation Unit *Local authorities

	utilities assists promotion of girls enrollment at school and continuing therein.		
8. Flexibility in content of syllabi and study plans	*School syllabi do not respond to local and learners' needs, especially girls. *Strict application of school syllabi and study plans at present.	*Grant sufficient flexibility to intensify school syllabi and study plans and link them to learners, local and daily needs, especially girls. *Give due consideration to specialist considerations in contents of syllabi. *Concentrate on skills crafts, home economics, training and other aspects of benefit to girls. Strengthen technical and financial institutional capability of the concerned agencies, designing and formulation of school syllabi. *Concern for extra-curricular activities and directing them to serving the local environment and the girls' needs.	*Ministry of Education *Education Research and Development Center *Local Authorities.
9. Provision of attraction factor for schools	*Absence of attraction factor at school and their programs and activities is a cause of drop-outs. *Girls enrollment is affected by the appearance of the	*Adopt activities programs that respond to girls' desires and hobbies. *Adopt activities programs that link the home and the school. *Involve girls in all that improves school environment.	*Ministry of Education *Local Authorities.

	school and the extent to which there is attraction and interest in its programs and activities.	*Care for organizing exhibitions and festivals and honoring exemplary mothers and fathers. *Design programs for education alternatives for girls, especially those who did not have the chance to join school.	
10. Activate present legislation and issue new legislation	*Non-application of legislation that positively affect girls education. *Need for new legislation supporting development of girls education.	*Study legislation and determine those which support development of girls education. *Study implementation of legislation relating to development of girls education and the extent of their application. *Promulgate new legislation in the direction of development of girls education.	*Ministry of Education *Ministry of Legal Affairs *Education Research and Development Center
11. Unify management and supervision agencies.	*Absence of a single management and supervision agency for girls education. *Scattered supervision and management agencies impedes progress of girls education and obstructs directing grants and aid according to needs. *Multiplicity of agencies supervising over girls education	*Formation of a Higher Council for Girls Education. *Council to be represented by branches at the level of Governorates and Districts *Involve popular participation in Council. *Adopt a plan for development of girls education. *Allocate a percentage of education budget to support girls education and increase it year by year.	*Ministry of Education *Local Authiorities.

	frustrates many projects.	*Place all aid and grants presented to pool into implementing a plan for development of girls education.	
12. Increase funding, collect and distribute its sources	*Low volume of funding obstructs implementation of girls' education projects. *Non-direction of aid and grants presented for girls education makes their effect limited. *Incompatibility of some projects with local needs.	*Grant priority of disbursement to development of girls education in rural areas. *Establish a national fund to support girls education into which all funding resources for girls education should pool. *Search for new resources alternatives to support girls education at the central and local levels.	*Ministry of Education *Ministry of Finance * Local Authorities
13. Undertake studies and evaluatory research to enhance development level of girls education	*Non-adoption of girls education research projects to consider local needs. *Absence of an evaluatory mechanism for the standard of girls education development, be it a phased or final one and at the central and local levels. *Rare research and studies on trends of and attitudes towards girls education. * Absence of a database on girls education.	*Approve a plan for research and studies for pre-implementation of plans and projects, during implementation and final implementation for their evaluation centrally and locally. * Approve a research and studies plan at local level *Establish a database on girls education, be it statistical or documentary.	*Ministry of Education *Education Research and Development Center. *Local Authorities.

Article

(11) Labor

103. Yemeni labor legislation accords concern to working women in pursuance of applying social equity and to secure realization of equality between men and women in all labor conditions and circumstances with discrimination. The Constitution, in its Article (29), provided that work is a right, honor and a necessity for the development of the society and that every citizen may practice the work he/she chooses within the limits of the Law; that no work may be forced on any citizen, except through the Law and for performing a public service against a pair wage. Union and Vocational Labor Law organizes the relation between laborers and employers.

Labor Law No: (5) of 1995 and Amendments thereto:

104. The law confirmed that work is a natural right of any citizen and should be practiced by whosoever is capable to perform it with commensurate conditions, opportunities, guarantees and rights without discrimination by reason of sex, age, race, color , creed or language. The State tries its utmost best to organization the right to secure work through continued planning of the national economy. Article (5) of this Law indicated equality of men and women in all aspects of labor conditions, rights, duties and relation indiscriminately, in addition to realizing equality between both sexes with regard to employment, promotion, wages, training, qualification and social security.

The Law has accorded women privileges, particularly during pregnancy and nursing periods, whereby it provides as follows:

" During working, hours shall be 5 for a woman who is in the 6th month of pregnancy or nursing a baby, until the end of the 6th month. This period may be reduced for heath reasons based on an approved medial report (43/1)"

Working hours of a nursing woman shall be calculated from the next day following the Child delivery leave until end of the 6th month (43/2).

Article (44) of the Law prohibits overtime work by women from the sixth month of pregnancy and during the six months following her commencement of work after the delivery leave.

Article (45) of the Law gave women the right to a delivery leave of 60 days with full pay and prohibited engagement of pregnant women in any work for 20 day's in addition to the above period in the event of:

(a) Delivery under labor on the basis of an approved medical report.

(b) Delivery of twins

Article (46) prohibits engaging women in industries and dangerous and hard works that are detrimental, are identified by a decree of the Minister. Women may also not be engaged to work at night, except during the month of Ramadhan or other works as identified by a decree of the Minister of Labor.

Article (47) compels the employer, who engages women, to declare in a visible place in the premises the work system that applies to such women. The same Article provided for a woman's right to 40 days leave with pay from the date of expiry of her husband. It also entitled her to 90 days leave without pay to complete the "Idda" period

Article (84) entitled every employee to 20 days with pay to perform the "Haj" religious obligation.
Article (2) of the Law defines " employee" as male or female employee.

Civil Service Law No: (19) of 1991:

105. The provision of this Law indicate that appointment to and rights posts is based on the principle equal opportunities and rights to all citizens without discrimination, pursuant to Article (12). On reading the provisions of this law very closely, we find that employment conditions and procedures for both sexes are the same, including appointment and promotion. No discrimination between both sexes is indicated anywhere in the law with regard to wages, which are granted according to post category.

This law has indicated positive characteristics with regard to women. It took into consideration the position of women. It took into consideration the position of women at marriage, pregnancy and nursing period. Among the privileges it granted to women are:

- Leave for 60 consecutive days with pay, in addition to another 20 days in the event of labor, caesarian or twin delivery.

- Leave without pay for one year, as maximum, for any reason approved by the administrative unit at work place.

- Five hours of work for nursing women until end of the sixth month from delivery and reduction of working hours of pregnant women to 4 hours commencing from the sixth month of pregnancy till delivery.

The Law has granted both husband and wife the right to four years leave to accompany each other in the event of travel of any of them abroad.

Despite the various privileges contained in this Law, yet some of its provisions included certain shortcomings, represented by reduction of leave of a woman who has lost her husband to 40 days instead of 130.

Social Insurance Law No: (26) of 1991:

106. This law did not discriminate between men and women with regard to guarantees and rights of the insured. But, in consideration of the social conditions of the insured women, it granted women old age pension at attaining the age 55 years instead of 60, provided that subscription to insurance doesn't fall below 15 years, while it grants this right to men at the age of 60 and the same period of subscription to insurance. Women qualify to this right when their share of contribution attain 300 installments, against 360 in the case of men.

The context of this provision reflects that in Yemeni legislator has granted privileges to women more than those granted to men, which is a positive point in favor of women. The Law has also provided for other guarantees and rights, beside insurance against old age, death, disability and work injuries by women, too.

Insurance and Pension Law No: (25) of 1991:

107. Provisions that pertain to women in this Law were provided as follows:

(a) Entitlement of Working Women to retirement pension:

108. Article (19) of the Insurance and Pensions Law No: (25) of 1991 and Article (23) of its Executive Regulation provided for entitlement of a woman to retirement pension in one of the following cases:

- If the actual period of service reaches 25 years, regardless of her age.
- On completion of 20 years of actual service at attaining the age of 46 years.
- If physically unfit in accordance with a medical reports as a result of a work injury or any other reason, also applied to men.
- On death, regardless of the actual period of service.

(b) Obligatory Pension:

109. Article (20) of the insurance and pensions Law indicates that pension shall be obligatory if the woman attains the age 55 years.

(c) End of Service Benefit:

End of service benefit shall be disbursed for cases else than those relating to entitlement to retirement pension. Article (21) of this Law and Article (34), paragraph (g) of its Executive Regulation gives the women the right to get this benefit in case of resignation to take care of her family, marriage or accompanying her husband abroad.

(d) Women and their Entitlement to the Rights of the Insured:

111. If the insured or owner of the retirement pension expires, his legal dependant shall be entitled to his pension or end of service benefits. Most of such entitled persons are women, i.e wife, mother or sister. But, such entitlement of a women ceases in one of the following cases, pursuant to Article (4) of the Executive Regulation of the same Law.

- On joining an employment from which she secures a permanent income.
- On marriage, provided that she is compensated with an amount equivalent to her share in the for one full year and in one lot.
- On death

However, she may retrieve this right if she loses her new husband or gets divorced of him. Entitlement of a wife to her deceased husband is dependant upon several conditions, viz:

1. If divorced by the husband (owner of the pension) before his death, she would be entitled to her share in the pension if the divorce was revocable and death of the husband occurred during the "Idda" period and the woman has no other source of income.
2. That such a widow was still in matrimonial bond with the deceased husband before his death.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Social Insurance Laws:

(a) Advantages:

112.

- Women were granted the right to retirement pension for their service period (equally granted to men).
- Working women were given more privileges than those given to men with regard to entitlement to retirement pension, whereby the actual period of service of women and their age were reduced by 5 years than those of men.
- Women were granted retirement pension on completing 25 years of actual service, regardless of the age attained, which is 5 years less than men to get the same.
- Attaining the age of 55 years was determined as the obligatory pension age for women, instead of 60 years, in consideration of the average life age in the Yemeni society.

- Those laws took into consideration the family and social circumstances of women, with regard to their right in marriage, caring for the family or accompanying their husbands abroad for legal reason. The laws did not deprive women of appropriate compensation against their actual period of service and acknowledge their entitlement to end of service benefit, if the conditions of entitlement to retirement pension do not apply to them.

(b) **Disadvantages:**

- Exclusion of these laws for a huge number of women, who engage in the agricultural sector, which leads to depriving them from the privileges contained in those laws.
- The Social Insurance Law gave privileges to women with regard to retirement cases, but the base for calculating their pension remained as it was, as compared to that of men (1/420). Logically, such based should be less than the one applied.
- This law also deprives women form their right to retirement pension at marriage, which leads to driving them to avoid this natural right.

Women's Participation Percentage in Labor Force:

114. According to 1994 census, the total labor force was 717,082, among which 20.2% are females. Female age categories were not reflected accurately by the data of the above census, which makes them rather unreliable. At present, preparation is under way for an employment force survey, preparation is under way for employment force survey, in which the statistical data and indicators were indexed according to gender at various employment classes and administrative levels, but its results did not appear till now.

Occupation and Posts barred to Women:

115. Law No: (5) of 1995 included explicit provisions to protect women from works that are detrimental to health and manners and hard works, such as nigh works. Among those works barred to women are:

- Underground work in various mines.
- Work in metal blast furnaces, because of the very high temperature
- Works that require very hard physical effort, such as those requiring lifting of weights of more than 20 kg.
- Lead compounds industry
- Explosives and crackers industry
- Applications of lead to mirrors
- Glass melting and maturation.
- Construction building and demolition works
- Works that have effect on fetus on coming in contact with certain dangerous substances, such as radioactive and chemical materials of kinds.

Occupations and Posts desired by the Family, Women and Society.

116.

- Occupations in the teaching profession in education institutions that accord services to females.
- Work at Women organizations and charitable societies.
- Work at women teaching, training and qualifying centers.

The society is considered rather short-sighted with regard to women's work, which subjects distribution of activities between men and women to reasons relating to inferiority.

Women are always given secondary or marginal woks. That devoid of innovation. As such, women remain affiliated to men, who monopolize the works that suit them, which avails them with control over women. Men reject allowing women to exercise vocations that may encourage rebellion against their authority. For this reason men are careful to make such affiliation persist through marginalization of women's role in the significant posts in society. Social reasons, represented by the social values, customs and traditions, assume a clear role in encouraging such an attitude towards women, which a situation that has started to change in favor of women, who have boldly embarked upon new fields that remained confined to men for a very long time.

Household Work of Women:

117. Household work carried out by women is not calculated as part of GNP, despite the fact that such household work comprised an invisible income for the family.

Agricultural Work Unpaid for and its relation to GNP:

Pursuant to the statistical indicators of the results of the Population and Houses Census of 1991, agricultural work for which no wages are paid was included in the GNP.

Women enjoy maternity leave without losing their jobs, seniority or social allowances, as indicated in the Laws mention above. These rights are being strictly observed by all public and private agencies.

Any violation of such rights give women the right to complain to the concerned authorities.

The Law also forbids discharging women from work in the event of pregnancy or if they apply for maternity leave, or leave to get married. The above explanation clarified the extent to which women are privileged in this respect. Women were also granted the rights to health care to insure their safety, specially at pregnancy and deliver.

Care Services Oriented to Child to Assist Working Women:

118. Working women in public, mixed and private sectors do not receive support of the institutions with whom they engage with regard to care for their children, due to scarcity of pre-school education institutions, such as nurseries and kindergartens. As such, the number of children benefiting from such services is less than 1% in the main cities and zero percent in the secondary cities, despite the importance of to the psychological security of working women.

Most of the care services in this social field are rendered by private sector institutions owned by males and females investors. Public institution in this field are not more than 6 only, which makes expansion in this service difficult. Additionally, the Government program in the field of investment in women activities and programs didn't include these orientations and policies to handle the extensive gaps in the quality and magnitude of the services accorded to working women and their children, particularly with in number of working women and the high cost of such services in private sector institutions, which reduce the chance of this age category to benefit from these services. The Labor Law and Civil Service Law did not include legal provisions to compel public institutions and employers of the private sector, who engage women with children, to provided for such care institutions for the children during the day times. The absence of strategies and plans and the complete unawareness with their significance lead to more complication of the problems and stresses the need to establish such institutions in order to promote the enrollment rate of children not affiliated to such a service, which has become as immensely important as the institutional care services in the basic education stages and for being a phase that provides the child_and mother with a space to exploit these capacities at such an early stage of age.

Some of the applied social field studies have indicated that some working women leave work during the early age of their children to devote time to caring for them at home until they attain school age to return again to work. Such discontinuation deprives them from benefiting from qualifying, training and promotion opportunities, particularly if such a period exceeds 3-4 years. This is aside from the fact that rehabilitation of these women after discontinuation for a long period creates many difficulties and constrains, viz:

- Non-existence of rehabilitation programs for women who have discontinued work for long period of time.
- Unawareness of the institutions that employ women of the importance of women rehabilitation programs.
- Weakness of financial allocations for employees qualifying and training programs, in general, which makes such problems more difficult and adds to their gravity.

- Absence of strategies and policies in this field, which distracts benefiting from potential capabilities.

Due to the methods adopted by some laws that relate to women right to employment and their general obligations in the fields of work and social insurance, which are difficult to be differentiated from the procedural point of view as a result of the existing overlapping and duplication. Those laws handled women issue on the following basis:

(a)Equality between men and women. Discrimination, if any, is attributed mainly to application of the provisions of those laws, which relies on the social status that has devoted some criteria and qualities to the roles of men and women that reflected themselves adversely upon the formulation of those laws at their implementation levels.

Child Labor:

119. Labor size of children in the age category 10-14 years is estimated at 231,755 child, 51.7% of them are males and 48.3% females. Survey results indicate that children start labor at an early age ranging between 4 to 6 years.

The number of working children increased at the rate of 3% per year during 1991-1994. The aggravation of the phenomenon is attributed to economic factors, return of about one million immigrants as a result of the Gulf crisis, rise in population growth rate of those of less than 15 years of age, drop in enrollment rates of children in education and spread of illiteracy. Children exercise various economic jobs and service, mostly accommodated by the private sector (98.3% of the total working children). Children work is concentrated in agriculture, breeding of livestock, supply of water and fire wood, construction, hawker jobs, cleaners, newspaper and magazine distributors, in addition to other hard and dangerous jobs.

Children's' Problems:

120: Children suffer from numerous health hazards and social problems, such as:

(a) Lack of legal protection for working children
(b) Malnutrition and contagious diseases.
(c) Exposure to cold, accidents and various work injuries.
(d) Maltreatment at work and exposure to immortal acts.
(c) Sense of failure and schizophrenia, which lead them to keep aloof from the family and society.
(f) Non-observance of employers of applying the labor Law (equal wage for a child for the same work performed by a man and compensation in the event of sustaining work injuries…etc.).

(g) Continuous long hours of work. Statistics indicated that 42% of the children work 6-10 hours per day and 39% work between 11 and 17 hours a day in commercial professions.

(h) Indulgences in chewing "qat" and smoking cigarettes at an early age.

Measures adopted to tackle Child Labor phenomenon.

121. The State exerts endeavors to control child labor phenomenon and tackling their vocational problems, in pursuance of rectifying their personalities to integrate them into the various fields of life through:

1- Consideration of child labor phenomenon and its causes.
2- Setting up alternative programs, projects, strategies and polices for child labor.
3- Qualifying working children and promoting their skills
4- Elaboration of regulations and resolutions that are complementary and executive for the provisions of Labor Law in the field of organizations of child labor.
5- Subjection of Working children to national laws and legislation.
6- Prohibition of exploiting children in hard and dangerous jobs that are detrimental to their health and provision of a health and safe environment for children.
7- Keeping records on child labor accidents and injuries and assisting them to get the appropriate compensation.
8- Monitoring institutions that employ children beyond the provisions of the laws and legislation and initiate actions against violating parties.
9- Subjection of working children to medical examination and social security.
10- Change of fines regulation in accordance with the changes of the labor market.
11- Examination of contracts of working children, revising them in accordance with the Labor and registration of children with Labor Offices.
12- Spreading awareness among parents of the importance of teaching their children and benefiting form the available education opportunities
13- Stimulation of the public opinion with the problems of employment of children and their economic, cultural, legal and political dimensions.
14- Preparation of pamphlets, stickers and a study on the phenomenon of child labor and development of childhood.
15- Publication of Child's Rights Convention and legislation pertaining to children
16- Co-ordination with the various information media in the field of child labor control and its Image on the child, family and society.
17- Observance of covering implementation of programs, projects and strategy on limitation of child labor and highlighting the incentives, activities and achievements attained in Yemen for limiting this phenomenon.
18- Formulation of information contexts on working children, their families and employers.
19- Re-formulation of the Labor Law No: (5) of 1995 and amendments thereof in the Law No: (25) of 1997; retrieval of Article (48) of the Law, which was previously omitted.

20- Ratification of International Labor Organization's convention No☹38) of 1973 on the Minimum Limit of Employment Age and No: (182) of 1991 regarding Prohibition of the Vicious form of Child Lebor and Action Procedures to Eliminate Them.

Article (12)

Health

122. The Health Policies and strategies Document was elaborated in the First Health conference in 1994, a 5-years Plan (1996-2000) was set up and finally a Health Sector Reform Document was also accomplished. The health districts and areas, cost recovery and community participation system was introduced through formation of Health Councils. The health facilities are being managed by both men and women. The health facilities are being managed by both men and women. The health budget was raised to 3.4% of the State general expenditure, as compared to 3.4% in 1997.
The following is a review of the priorities and policies set up by the Ministry of Public Health in pursuance of upgrading health conditions, promoting health awareness level and increasing the coverage rate of health services.

Health Manpower:
123. This aspect has witnessed a remarkable development.
The number of trained and qualified cadre in the health sector has increased to 32,590 in 1998, as compared to 25,009 in 1997 (the first 5-year health plan), i.e at an increase of about 30%. Women form 27.84% of the total manpower, which is considered rather low. However, the late 1990's witnessed a significant number of women joining the health sector.

Table (9) showing the number of health Manpower and its distribution, by sex*

Total Health Manpower	Sex.			
	Males	%	Females	%
32,590	23,516	72.16	9,072	27.84

*Health Survey 1998.

Distribution of Manpower and Ratio of Health Manpower to Population:

123. Despite the development of the health manpower during the past six years, yet there are difference in the number of health manpower between the various Governorates of the Republic, which is attributed to the following:

1- Unjust distribution of manpower among the various areas of Yemen
2- Lack of adequate incentives for those working in the rural areas.
3- The low level of education in some areas and the high level in other areas, which reflects itself adversely on the citizens of those areas to join health institutes and medical colleges.
4- Preference of most of the manpower to work in cities rather than rural areas.

Table (20) Showing Total Number of Population, Physician and Nurses and Ratio of the Health Manpower to Each 10,000 persons of the Population.*

Total Population	Total Physicians	Total Nurses	Physician to 10,000 persons	Nurses to 10,000 persons
17,71,000	3,879	9,419	2.27	5.52

- Health Survey, 1998

124. The above Table shows that the ratio of physicians for each 10,000 persons of the population reached 2.27% and that of nurses is 5.52 for each 10,000 persons. These ratios are too law when compared with those of other foreign and sisterly counties, viz Saudi Arabia 14:10,000 and Sultanate of Oman 10.3: 10,000. About 40.8% of the total health manpower of the Republic is concentrated in Aden and Sana'a. In Aden, the ratio of physicians to population is 16.95: 10,000 and that of nurses to population 25.60. 10,000, while in Dhamar it is 0.61: 10,000 and 2.07: 10,000 respectively: Taiz 2.54: 10,000 and 3.5: 10,000 respectively.

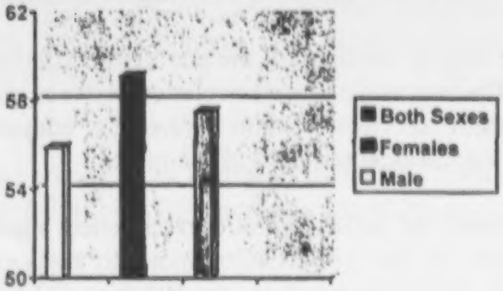
Therefore, on identifying the actual need of health manpower, two significant factors should be taken into consideration:

1- Population growth
2- Economic growth and availability of resources.

Life Expectancy at Birth:

125. In the 1970's life expectancy at birth for both sexes was estimated at 35 years. With the improvement of the health situation, promotion of health awareness, progress of education level, concern with nutrition and provision of health care life expectancy in 1998 rose to 47 years. In the General Population Census of 1994, life expectancy was reflected at 56 years for males and 59 years for females, a difference of 3 years in favor of females.

Figure (1) Showing Life Expectancy at Birth, by sex.*



* 1998 Health Survey

Maternal Mortality:

126. Previous estimates, according to Governmental sources, indicate that maternal mortality in 1990 amounted to 1000 for each 100,000 live births. But, estimates of the international organizations, the WHO and UNICEF, indicate 1400 maternal mortality cases for each 100,000 live births. However, results of the 1997 demographic survey estimate maternal mortality rate are 351 cases for each 100,000 live births, with a relative error of 31%, i.e the maternal mortality rate in Yemen may amount to 460 for each 100,000 live births, as maximum. Maternal mortality represents 42% of the total mortality among women in the age category 15-49 years.

127. Causes of Maternal Mortality:

1. Hepatitis	16%
2. Bleeding	13.4%
3. Infections as result of pregnancy	11.6%
4. Prégnancy Toxicosis	11.2%
5. Other child delivery causes	9.8%
6,. Labor delivery	9.4%
7. Chromic diseases	9.3%
8. Coronary diseases	9.4%
9. Chronic contagious diseases	4.9%
10. Chronic uncontagious diseases	3.6%
11. Unknown causes	0.9%

Causes of Infant Mortality:

128. Child and infant mortality rates have dropped remarkably during the past five years. But, these rates are still considered high. The rise in infant mortality affect directly the interest of women to use family planning means, due to mothers' desire to

give birth to children at an early age, which also leads to an increase in birth rates among women and consecutive deliveries, consequently affecting mothers' health adversely and leading to low standards of living for families.

Children are the largest section of the population affected by the spread of diseases and epidemics. There is also a close correlation between child mortality rate, standard of rendering health services, health awareness, adoption of sound reproductive measures and the educational standard of the mother.

129. Some indicators of infant mortality rates reflect significant drop in them during the past few years. In the 1960's infant mortality rates exceeded 200 cases for each 10000 live births, which dropped in the 1980's to 131 and the 1990's to 75 for each 1000 live births. Mortality rate among children under 5 years of age also dropped from 260 cases for each 1000 live births during the past 5 years.

Table (21) Showing Mortality among Children of Various Ages *

Age	Direct mortality			Late mortality			Infant mortality Rate			NICMR			Mortality under 5 years		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
0-4	37.4	29.6	33.6	47.8	35.0	41.7	85.2	64.6	75.3	29.3	34.7	31.9	112.0	79.1	104.8
5-9	53.0	42.4	47.8	58.3	52.3	55.4	111.3	94.7	103.3	36.4	38.1	37.2	143.7	129.2	136.6
10-14	48.7	37.8	43.5	67.6	64.3	66.0	116.3	102.1	109.6	45.2	45.9	45.5	156.2	143.3	150.1
15-19	62.8	50.2	56.6	84.7	78.7	81.7	147.5	128.9	138.4	69.5	80.1	74.7	206.8	198.7	202.7
20-24	78.0	54.6	67	120.2	118.5	119.4	195.1	173.1	186.4	91.2	90.4	90.8	271.3	247.8	260.3

*1997 Demographic Survey

Causes of Infant Mortality:

130. There are certain factors that affect infant and child mortality rates directly, such as:

1- Bronchitis
2- Diarrhea
3- Malaria
4- The six fatal diseases
5- Meningitis
6- Accidents

Indirect Causes of Child Mortality:

1- Educational level of mother
2- Mother receiving health care services
3- Successive delivery
4- Mother's age at giving birth
5- Consumption of (qat) and cigarettes
6- Infant weigh at birth
7- Environmental factors, such as drinking water, sanitary drainage, clean hose… etc.

Reproductive and Child Health:

131. Lately, productive health services programs of the health sector have included comprehensive plans and projects that undertake mother health care, family planning means, sterility treatment, venereal diseases… etc. These services are also accorded to other categories besides females.

Fertility Rates:

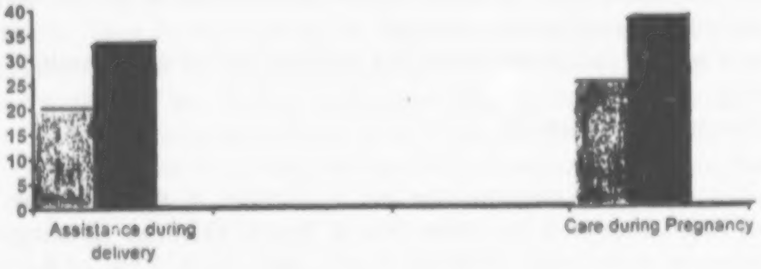
132. Yemen is considered among those countries that suffer from high fertility rates. In 1991/92, this rate reached 7.4 live births per women, which dropped in 1997 to 65.

Care for Pregnant Women:

133. In the demographic survey of 1992 on mother and child health, the percentage of mothers who received health care amounted to 26%, increased in the second cycle of the survey in 1997 to reach 34%. Births that took place under the supervision of qualified health cadre amounted to 16% and 22% during the first and second cycles of the survey, respectively.

But, despite the rise in the number of women who have received health services during pregnancy and the number of births that took place under qualified health cadre, this percentage is still low. The concerned agencies are ambitions to raise this percentage to 60% by the end of year 2000. This would entail expanding reproductive health service, encouraging women to give birth under supervision of qualified health cadre and training more cadre in this field. Many female health workers were trained in the rural areas. 1500 midwives shall be trained by the end of year 2001 to cover for the need of the rural areas of qualified health cadre.

Figure (2) Showing Health Care during Pregnancy and Health Assistance During Delivery.



Family Planning Means Services:

134. The Ministry of Public Health is concerned about family planning to limit the steady growth in population, in pursuance of improving mothers' health and reducing mortality rates among children and mothers. Productive health programs aim at providing easy and safe services for mothers. Awareness in the significance of family planning and intervals between deliveries. Indicator in this aspect show that many women have heard about family planning means, the use of which doesn't legally require consent of husbands, except in the cases of tidying of the fallopian tube. The development of the society, improvement of the education standard of women and drop of the standard of living of the Yemen family are factors that led to acceptance of family planning means. Though the rate of use of such means until now is unsatisfactory, yet if has doubled during the past five years to reach 21%, as compared to 10% in 1992, inclusive of natural breast feeding, being considered one of the means of contraception. 98% of the Health Centers accord family planning services.

Table (22) Showing use of family planning Means in urban and rural areas*.

Age	% use of contraceptives (Demog. Survey 1992)			% use of contraceptives (Demog. Survey 1997)		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
15-49 years	6	28	10	16	36	21

* Demographic survey 1992/97, CSO.

As for the current use of family planning means, by kind, it was observed that women prefer the prolonged natural breast feeding (8%), which is a traditional means still in practice largely in Yemen, then the oral tablets (4%), the loop (3%), safe period (2%) and tubal ligation (1.04%).

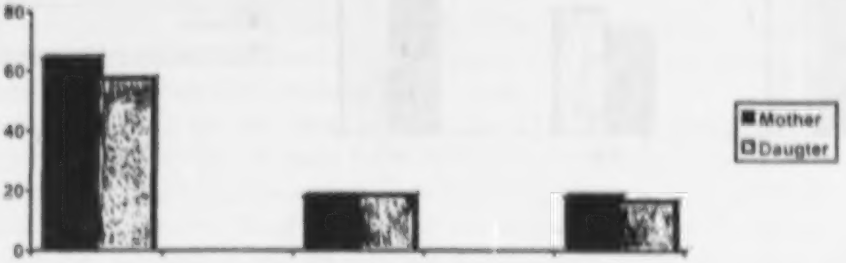
Female Circumcision:

135. Female circumcision operation leads to deformation of the female's reproductive system and other complications, such as:

1- Exposure to pain and shock during the performance of the operation.
2- Bleeding
3- Infection and inflammation
4- Tetanus

About 97% of female circumcision are performed at the home by old ladies or traditional midwives and the other 3% at health facilities (Demographic Survey, 1997). Females at the age category 45-49 years form 22% of the total number of females and those in the age category 15-19 years from 20% of the total. These indicators reflect a slight difference between the two generation, i.e the mother and daughter, at 2%, which is considered high and requires huge efforts to make the community aware the of hazards such a traditional practice. Much support is need to combat this vicious practice , which has adverse health, social and psychological effects on girls and women. Female circumcision prevails in the coastal regions of the country, but reduces in the highland areas, plateaus and desert.

Figure (3) Shown areas where Female Circumcision Spreads, by areas.

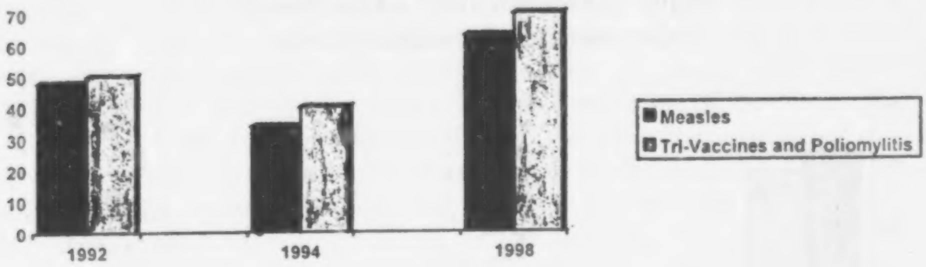


Immunization of Children against the Six Fatal Diseases:

136. The Government, represented by the Ministry of Public Health, focuses on enhancing the extensive immunization program due to the dangerous diseases which can easily be wiped out through immunization of children. Vaccines for those diseases are available in all primary health care centers of the Governorates of the Republic of Yemen. Intensive efforts, in collaboration with the UNICEF and WHO Organizations, were exerted for supporting the Program. The Government has seriously contributed in supporting the budget of the Immunization Program, and those endeavors resulted in carrying out national campaigns to wipe out poliomyelitis.

Coverage rate of the tri-vaccine and poliomyelitis (3rd does) reached 68% in 1998, as compared to 50% and 33% in 1992 and 1994, respectively. Similarly, coverage against measles increased to 66% in 1998, as compared to 46% and 31% in 1992 and 1994, respectively. Due to the spread of hepatitis, which is considered an endemic disease, a vaccine against it was introduced in w999 for the first times as part of the Immunization Program. The vaccine is accorded free of charge to infants of 0-1 year and against a nominal charge to children over 1 year of age. In case of success of the Program, all children below 5 years of age will be vaccinated free of charge, as of beginning of the year 2000.

Figure (4) Vaccination of Children in 1992, 1994 and 1998.



Abortion:

137. In Yemen, abortion is considered a crime punishable under the Law, regardless of being by consent of the woman or not. Such punishment amounts to payment of blood money and imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years. If abortion leads to death of the women, the punishment may amount to 10 years imprisonment, if the operation was carried out by a But, if performed by consent of the woman, the operating party shall be fined the amount of blood money, to which the woman consenting to abortion shall not be entitled to any part of it. However, no shall be imposed if a specialized physician decides that abortion is necessary to preserve the mother's life. From the religious point of view, abortion is forbidden by the Sharia, which considers it an act of murder.

But, abortion is permitted in the following cases:

1- If the mother is suffering from a medical constrain and pregnancy forms a danger to her life.
2- If a specialized physician confirms the existence of serious deformation in the fetus.
3- If a women is exposed to rape and becomes pregnant.
4- Death of the fetus in the mother's womb.
5- Occurrence of bleeding and partial abortion.

Muslim religious jurists permit abortion before the acquisition of the fetus the divine soul. estimated at 120 days from commencement of pregnancy. Abortion is permitted only in the cases mentioned above in Governmental health facilities. Some abortions are also being carried out in private medical facilities, but there are no statistical report available in this respect.

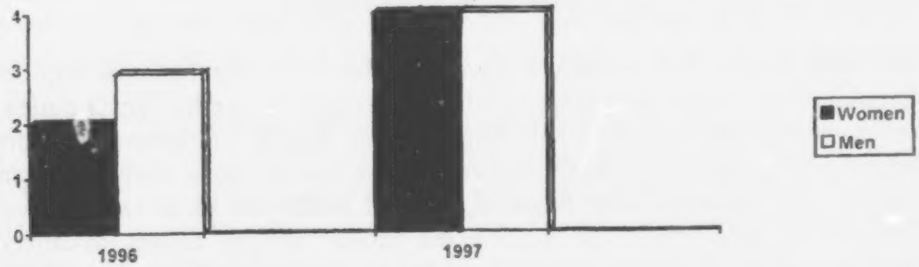
Under all circumstances, abortion requires the consent of the husband, or the legal guardian of a girl exposed to rape. There is no health insurance for all Government

employees to cover expenses involved for abortion. But, such expenses are paid by some employers, who provide insurance for abortion cases.
There are no accurate statistics with the Ministry on the mortality or complication that result out of abortion and no statistics on abortion performed in private health institutions.

HIV Infection:

138. Despite the existence of some HIV cases in the Republic of Yemen, yet statistical data on the number of these cases is not accurate. Reports of the Ministry of Health indicate that the number of cases is a little above 200, which very low in comparison with other countries east of the Mediterranean Sea.
Information provided by the Ministry state that 47% of those infected are foreigners and the other 53% are men. Women form 26% of the total infected person and most of the infections are in the age category which is more active sexually, i.e 20-49 years.
Statistical data procured from records of six hospitals in the Republic of Yemen shows that the number of persons infected with the Aids virus are 13 in 199697, 7 of them are men 6 are women. Out of the 6 women, two are non-Yemenis.

Figure (5) Percentage of Population of
Both Sexes that have selected qualities Related to particular health hazards
For two years (1996-1997).



Men and women infected with Aids receive no health and psychological care services, which have to be accorded to such patients to assist in alleviating the health problems and psychological pains to which they have been exposed as a result of the shock they received when told of the infection. Awareness programs on the hazards of this disease on man are undertaken by the National Aids Control Project through discussion symposia and workshops. programs in the various information media and other concerned Associations, such as the Yemeni Family Care Association, which assumes a role in spreading awareness and health education among the members of the community of the damages and hazards of this disease.
But, those awareness programs referred to above are inadequate and uneffective to a society with a higher rate of illiteracy and lacks health awareness of the seriousness of such disease and the health, social, economic and psychological effects that emanate

therefore, which calls for the intrusion of the concerned agencies to introduce services for these patients and accord them various kinds of assistance.

Health Care for Women afflicted with Breast and Uterine Cancer:

139. There isn't a clear national strategy and plan accord health care to women afflicted with breast and uterine cancer. Such cases, if any, are dealt with in the same manner adopted for other patients suffering cancer diseases. So, women exposed to, or inflicted with, these diseases do not get the appropriate curative and rehabilitation services that would enable them to stand to the health and psychological problems caused by these disease.

The high cost involved in treatment and regular medical examinations of these chronic diseases normally exposes those women inflicted with them to quick death due to lack of national hospitals specialized in surgical intervention. As for radiological treatment, it is available only abroad.

Despite the increase of these cases, yet there is no national center to record the statistical data and indicators of those exposed to, or inflicted with, such diseases, which makes taking the proper remedies and procedures to handle these cases difficult. To improve the quality of services for these diseases, data and information should be made available from clinical and medical studies and researches that have to be undertaken by the health institutions in the country.

However, some self-initiatives were undertaken by the National Cancer Control Organization, which was established six years ago, to care for cancer patients of both sexes, particularly women. This Organization started implementing awareness and educational programs in the field of confronting cancer, particularly breast and uterine cancer, and accorded some financial, medical, health and social care services to these patients, in pursuance of supporting the limited official efforts to cancer patients, represented by according financial assistance to a limited number of patients for treatment abroad.

All the above explanation lead to drawing the attention of the concerned agencies in the health institutions to the necessity of according and improving the quality of services for women inflicted with breast and uterine cancer, that entails severe social, health and psychological impact on the patient, her family and the community, through the establishment of a State national center for cancer patients, provided that it be financially and technically supported by the Government.

Article (13):
Economic and Social Life:

140. In its general program before the Parliament in July 1998, the Yemeni Governments expressed concern with the status of women and poor families. The program was consistent with the State's objectives and policies to mitigate poverty and minimize its social and economic effects, within the framework of the economic and financial reform, and stressed upon development of human resources, integration of women in development and promoting their participation in public life.
The objective of promoting and expanding the social security network activities was accorded priority, particularly assisting the social sections with limited income. Among its basic orientation, the Government program focused on the social security network that aims at reducing the negative impact of the reform program on the poor social section with limited income and that section which suffers from unemployment.

The State has also focussed on promoting and expanding social protection systems and social security, such as juvenile and handicapped institutions, elderly centers and poor women vocational qualifying centers, either through promoting their intake capacities, construction of new institution or diversifying the activity and improving quality of services accorded by them.
All these adopted policies and programs provide various forms of family benefits, which are directed to women and the family in pursuance of providing them with adequate social protection.
Additionally, the Government, through its concerned institutional organs, avails women with opportunities to procure the same family benefits and loans that are accorded to men. To confirm equality between men and women in this field, Law No: (31) of 1996 has expanded the categories included under social care to benefit form the provisions of this law. It identified the categories of the society to receive social care services such as orphans and the poor. It granted women whose providers are absent permanently or lost and families of prisoners and those with temporary or permanent disability the benefit of services accorded under the Social Care Law.

All the categories included under the social care are women and men. Cash or in-kind social assistance are disbursed to cases to which the provisions of this Law apply. The law defined the "Women without provider" as every woman whose husband died or divorced her and unmarried women above 30 years of age, regardless of having children or not. For all these case, it is conditional that such a woman is unable to work and has no fixed income or any other legal provider capable of taking care her.

This Law was adopted through the following mechanisms:

Social Security Network Program:

141. Among the most significant Government mechanisms, to which the State has given special attention to provide for social protection and benefits for the families to cope up with the effects of the economic reform program, is to confront effects of the economic reform program, is to confront effects entailed from increasing poverty. To this end, the Government initiated a series of suitable actions and procedures to establish this network urgently in 1995 within the framework of the second phase of economic, financial and administrative reforms and make it acquire a social dimension. This network aims at achieving the following:

- Granting material and subsistence assistance to mitigate burdens of the poor and those with limited income, men and women equally.
- Soliciting work opportunities for the unemployed and for those able of work of both sexes, indiscriminately.
- Expanding popular participation of the civil community organs to achieve integration of social and economic development programs.
- Enhancing the social integration approach through diversification and improvement of quality of services programs and resources.

Other mechanisms were also established to enhance the programs of this network, such as:

Social Welfare Fund:

142. This Fund was established through Law No: (31) of 1996 and was amended in the Law (17) of 1999 to accord direct cash assistance to the poor categories of the society. The State has allocated YR4.5 billion for the year 1998 from which 250,ooo cases are expected to benefit by the end of 1998.

Public Works Projects:

143. This Project was established through the Council of Ministers Decree No: (159) of 1996. It is one of the components of the Social Security Network adopted by the State in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Development Agency (IDA).

The Project aims at achieving the following:

- Providing employment opportunities for men and women.
- Promoting the health and environmental status, in general, and the most needy areas, in particular.
- Promoting community participation level in planning execution of reconstruction projects.

National Program for Productive Families:

144. This Programs was established through international, regional and local concern with the issues of women and family to involve the in the economic and social development processes. A decree was issued for its establishment in 1988 to be supervised over by the Ministry of Insurance and Social Welfare.

National Program for Alleviating Poverty and Providing Work Opportunities Project:

145. Implementation of this Project began in June 1998 after issuance of Council of Ministers Decree No: (168) of 1998. Cost of this project id US$40 million, financed by UNDP and its specialized organizations.

The Project aims at achieving the promotion of social care, education, vocational training, productive families, rural and human development services.

Small Industries Development Unit:

146. This Unit was established to engage in the field of lending under the supervision of the Industrial Bank and in cooperation with the Dutch Project and the UN Organization for Promoting of Capital. Total contribution of foreign assistance for this Unit during the past years amounted to YR5 million of the Yemeni Government was estimated at YR6 million. The Unit accords soft loans to household heads of the poor sections of the society to establish small income generating enterprises Lending percentage to women amounted to 48% of the total of lending cases.

The unit aims at achieving the following:

- Provision of lending services to poor families with limited income, university, schools, institutes and vocational training centers.

Work Productivity Upgrading Project:

147: This Project is being implemented by the German Corporation for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). It is similar to the small Enterprises Support Project.

The Project aims at achieving the following :

- Participation in economic and social development
- Upgrading productivity and quality of existing small enterprises and according advisory services to them.

Social Development Fund:

148. This fund addresses its services to areas that suffer poverty and unemployment through identification of the beneficiaries, men and women, and according them the required facilities to establish small enterprises. It also pursues establishment of direct relations that enhance trust in the Fund and its objectives.

The Fund aims at achieving the following:

- Provision of services to inhabitants of urban and rural areas.
- Encouraging establishment of productive agricultural schemes, usually carried out by women, in rural areas.
- Encouraging investment in livestock and poultry within the framework of households and other in come generating vocations and activities.

Micro-start

149. The first footings of this project were elaborated through a survey study for the NGO's to investigate their views in order to identify their requirements of services of this Project and implement them. Cost of this project amounts to US$1,613,000. The Project aims at achieving the following:

- Provision of social and economic development opportunities to all Governorates of the Republic.
- Contraction of differences between the various social categories.
- Provision of equal opportunities to all persons.

Women's Borrowing:

150. Yemeni women resort to borrowing when they become exposed to certain factors and social circumstances, such as financial conditions of the family, matrimonial disputes, expiry of the husband, divorce, building of a house and establishment of an investment enterprise by submitting a commercial or real-estate guarantee.

Industrial Borrowing:

151. Borrowing in this field was rather limited, lost now seems take a positive step forward.

Table (23) Showing the Extent of Benefit to Women from Small Industrial Loans, as Compared to Men, during the Years 1991/1997.

Year	No: of Enterprises		Total	Project % Women : Men
	Male	Female		
1991	23	17	40	73%
1992	44	14	58	31%
1993	77	27	104	35%
1994	84	58	142	69%
1995	82	38	120	46%
1996	112	119	231	94%
1997	57	37	94	64%

The above Table shows that the number of enterprises accorded to women increases form one year to another and that the percentage of enterprises to women is significant, when compared to those accorded to men. The Table also reflects the positive progress attained by women in the field of industrial borrowing.

However, women participation in medium enterprises is humble for the following reasons:

1- Disability of women to implement medium and large enterprises due to lack of specialized personnel of both sexes in the field of planning, technical advice and elaboration of bills of quantity for such enterprises.
2- Customs and traditions that have significant impact on barring women from penetrating this field.
3- The prolonged period for settlement of loans, probability to sustain loss and weakness of fast proceeds from such enterprises.
4- The short period stipulated by banks for settlement of loans/credits:

Table (24) Showing extent of benefit to women From medium enterprises during the years 1994/1998.

Kind of Enterprise	Year	Sector	No: of beneficiaries	Loan specified amount
Medium	1994-97	Sewing	1	YR5 million
Large	-	-	-	YR10 million

Agricultural Borrowing:

152. These are projects accorded to women by the Agricultural Credit Bank, which are limited to breeding of poultry, sheep, cattle and foodstuff industries. The Agricultural Credit Bank is the most active of all banks in this field. As number of women engaging in this field is large, the Bank preferred to deal with them without conditions and accorded them all the facilities to procure the loans. The Bank has opened branches in Taiz, Hudeida, Sana'a, Amran and Aden.

The following two Tables showing the extent of benefit of rural women from agricultural projects, the kind of project and related cost.

Table (25) showing number of borrowers, males and females during 1991

Sex	No: of H/H members	%
Males	18,620	49.1
Females	19,933	50.9

This Table shows the corresponding percentage of agricultural borrowing at the level of both sexes and confirms the fact that a large number of females assume the responsibility of heads of families and burden providing for their subsistence, particularly in cases where husbands migrate to other cities in the Republic or abroad.

Table (26) Showing the kinds of projects and their sectoral classification.

Project Sectoral Classification	Year													
	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997	
	No	Amt	No	Amt	No	Amt	No	Amt.	No	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No:	Amt.
Sewing & Tricot	11	28500	15	234500	20	73500	61	408700	27	2739700	32	1431000	14	649000
Dental Clinics	-	-	-	41300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eng. Consult.	-	-	-	-	1	245000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Décor & Painting	-	-	-	-	1	278500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Handicrafts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	182000	-	-
Nutrition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3030000	1	30000
Skin diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	40000	-	-
Med. Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	90000	-	-
Others.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	1580000	3	12000
Total	11	28500	15	152500	22	1257500	61	408700	27	2739700	101	6353000	18	791000

153. The above Table shows the percentage of borrowing for small enterprises of limited income, the highest being for sewing and tricot, followed by handicrafts and them medical enterprises, which reflects housewives have entered the experience of undertaking traditional enterprises, which educated women involved in enterprises that fall beyond the traditional framework.

Table (27) showing the kind of Agricultural Enterprises and Related Cost in Yemeni Rials.

Year	Kind of Enterprise		Borrowed Amt (YR)	
	Cattle	Sheep	Cattle	Sheep
1994	-	8	-	340
1995	76	82	5440	376405
1996	324	79	-	4215
TOTAL	400	169	5440	831905

Table (28) showing Women's Ability in Following Loans

Description	%
Follow up by herself	57.1
Authorize husbands	38.1
Authorize relatives	4.8
TOTAL	100.0

154. This Table reflects Women's responsibility for following up their loans, which means becoming more capable of taking decisions in matters that pertain to them. There still are women who rely on their husbands to undertake this responsibility.

Table (29) Showing Borrowing of Women In Fishermen Households, as compared to Men.

Sex	%
Males	54.7
Females	45.3
TOTAL	100.0

155. Women in fishermen households soliciting loans are less than men due to absence of direct relations between the women and the work of men. However, women do apply for loans to exercise making fishing nets, drying and selling fish.

Insurance and Pension Fund:

156. Many companies and factories in commercial establishments contribute to social insurance of their employees through the payment of premiums to the Social Insurance Corporation against death, disability, retirement or injuries. In addition to payment of salaries and compensations, the Corporation also accords loans to insured parties of both sexes. The number of women who have procured loans from the Corporation in 1992 is 3089 and 192251 in 1997. As for public and mixed sector organs, they also accord loans to their employees with marginal interest rates.

Table (30) showing the extent of benefit of Women from the Social Development Fund During the period 1995-1997.

Kind of Beneficiaries	Urban			Rural			Total
	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	
Direct Beneficiaries	1832	1910	4000	2090	2800	27918	36950
Indirect Beneficiaries	-	-	25689	-	-	19452	55141
Direct Beneficiaries in Projects	34042	11700	31089	6090	2600	101770	192291

157. The about Table shows that the percentage of direct and indirect male beneficiaries of project is more than that of females, despite the fact that most lending institutions grant borrowing women numerous privileges and facilities to secure their proper attendance for borrowing. But, women themselves weaken their such attendance due to being afraid of not settling the loan during the limited period f time, in addition to the discouragement of the families for women to benefit from these loans, also being afraid that they would not be able to settle these loans in time. For this reason, there is a big gap between the male and female borrowers. Other social factors also intrude to exercise influence on women and distract them from benefiting from loans. Those factors are purely cultural and due to the concept maintained by the society on women's incapability to burden responsibilities.

All the above issues bring about numerous statistical indicators relating to opportunities available to women in general, particularly widows, divorcees and poor women to benefit from loans made available to them by Governmental institutions, internationally funded projects or organizations concerned with women affairs and activities. But, as explained above, procurement of women for such privileges and benefits encounter constrains, particularly benefiting from loans and financial allocations in the from agricultural, industrial or housing loans. The procurement of such loans is considered a personal right to women, who do not need to have consent of their husbands or guardians under all cases. But, this depends or guardians under all cases. But, this depends on the cultural environment of the family of the women, i.e the more educated the family is, the stronger is her capability to free herself from these cultural restrictions. In most cases where women resort to getting their husbands or guardians consent, it is only to have their support to face with them any difficulties and constrains they may have to encounter.

A recent experiment through the pilot borrowing project, under the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Process, from which handicapped and married women receive benefits, shows that members of the families of such women, particularly the men, accord these women the support required for getting such loans. The experiment emphasized the positive transition in the attitudes of men and women and their involvement in burdening the responsibilities of procuring these Loans, which is a positive indicator in favor of women.

Housing Bank:

158. The Bank grants equal treatment to both men and women, but to deal with working women rather than housewives, to secure recovery of the loan through their salaries or real-estate. As for housewives, loans are granted only to those who own real-estate and capable of settlement f the loans.

Table (31) Showing the extent of benefit of Women from loans granted by the housing Bank during the period 1995/1997.

Year	No: of Female Borrowers	No: of Male Borrows	% of women to men
1995	9	228	5.03
1996	4	159	5.02
1997	15	234	5.06

159. The Table shows that borrowing percentage of women is very small as compared to that of men, despite the fact that borrowing in this field is a necessity for women to secure stability for their families and protection against many problems that may be encountered. The reasons for women not benefiting from loans granted by the

Housing Bank are as follows:

- The high financial proceeds required for the settlement of loans, which makes women refrain from benefiting from these loans.
- Weakness of facilities accorded to procure the loans, which hampers women from benefiting from these loans, as compared to men who tend to take risks and burdens of settlement of the loan for long years, something that cannot usually be endured by women.

Housing Services:

160. These services remain short under the lack of suitable accommodation for the poor families and those with the limited income. So this end, the State has adopted, with the framework of its national strategy, an objective to provide proper accommodation for each family. The State's updated population work plan (1996-2000) contained strategies and policies that focus on the following orientations:

- Setting up a population policy that takes into consideration the population growth rate;
- Finding appropriate solutions for the current and future population problems, including the participation of the public and private sectors in establishing large housing projects, as one of the ambitions to be attained in the field of dealing with the population problem.
- Granting soft loans for individuals and groups to enable them establish housing projects for those with limited income.
- Encouraging the establishment of the housing cooperative sector and organizing its works through the establishment of a union for these cooperatives.
- The necessity of giving concern with the housing problems arising from squatter housing at the poor outskirts of large cities, specially Sana'a, Aden and Hudeida, through the construction of popular complexes and improving the services rendered to these categories.
- Enacting legislation and laws to limit physical encroachment on agricultural land, controlling disputes on residential land and organizing relations between lessors and lessees.

However, this plan was not reflected till now in housing investment programs and projects to provide for suitable housing for those with limited income, particularly the poor, or popular houses designed to accommodate this section of the population, for whom housing constitutes an utmost necessity.

There is also immense need for such houses, a fact reflected by statistical indicators on the minimum annual requirement of houses. These indicators confirm the need from provision of 20,000 housing units only in six main cities, on the assumption that this number would accommodate the increasing urban growth rate, which does not offer absolute indicators for the magnitude of actual requirement of these services at the level of all areas.

The realization of such an objective for poor household is, no doubt, ambitious, but is inconsistent with the capabilities of the State and the difficult economic and financial status witnessed by the country at present. Hence, implementation of housing projects is carried out through the humble self endeavors of the citizens in the form of poor housing structures and construction of squatter houses that lack sanitary conditions and services facilities, such as water, lighting and sanitary drainage. A large proportion of the households with limited and the poor are unable to achieve this objective by personal efforts, as they have to continue providing for living requirements to keep alive.

Accordingly, it may be said that realization of the objectives of the national strategy and work plan doesn't seam, at least at present, an easy matter, particularly under the humble contribution of the private and public sectors in investing in housing services.

Health Insurance Programs:
161. The application of the economic and financial reform policies and programs was accompanied by a negative impact, such as reduction of expenditure costs of numerous basics services, among them are health services, whereby State general expenditure on health services didn't exceed 3% of the total expenditure. This is in addition to privatizing a number of health institutions, which led to depriving families, specially women, from health care services. However, the State bears costs towards treatment abroad of some chronic cases. The State is not a position to cover all services required by such chronic cases, but accords them limited financial support, in accordance with medical reports approved by the major Government hospitals or a specialized medical board, showing the disease and extent of being dangerous. This method is feasible for according such support to urgent cases.

In 1991, the Government tried to direct a number of Government institution, after the issuance of Council of Minister Decree No: (361), to prepare a system for health insurance. A Committee was formed from all Government Ministries.
This Committee prepared a Draft Project for the establishment of the General Authority for Health Insurance. But, no positive initiatives were adopted to bring the health insurance system into light, despite the significance of such a law and its numerous privileges for improving the health condition of citizens, including married and unmarried women.

Recreational and Cultural Activities and Programs:
162. Despite the numerous benefits enjoyed by the family, yet some of these benefits, specially those relation to provision of recreational and cultural activities, like cultural, social and sports clubs, theatre activities and public libraries, are very few if not scarce. But, there are some programs directed to the youth of both sexes, and not to married women, represented by the activities implemented by the Ministry of

Youth and Sports, with the support of the Population Activities Fund. A role is also being assumed by several national associations and organizations in establishing youth hostels in the various Governorates, youth camps, recreational and sports activities within existing youth clubs organized by the Guides Association and the Scouts Association, in which various cultural, sports, recreational and artistic functions are exercised. The major characteristic of these activities is that they are concentrated around activities exercised by male youths, while the cultural, sports and recreational women clubs are too rare, if not inexistent at all. For these reasons, women and youth of both sexes resort to chewing (qat) as the only way out left to them where social relations, cultural ties and numerous household benefits could be created as an alternative and compensation for these unavailable services.

Legal and Cultural Constrains Barring Women's Participation in Recreational and Sports Activities and Various Aspects of Life:

163. The role and status of women are influenced by the ideologies and legal system that prevail, and also by the cultural status, urban level and nature of the social and economic growth that form, at the end, the identity of women and the roles. That are to be assumed by them. This identity changes with the change that takes place in the social and economic circumstances that surround it and by the appearance of changing and progressive social requirements imposed by the necessities of the new life and the impact of the enlightened cultural trends.

As such, the legal and cultural constrains that bar women from participation in recreational, sports activities and other aspects of cultural life may be presented as hereunder.

There are no legal constrains that bar the general participation of girls and women in recreational, sports or other cultural activities. The constrains are represented only by the application and activation of the laws with regard to expansion of the base of base of participation of women in these fields.
Cultural constrains lie in the weakness of awareness of the society for the requirements of girls and women for these activities, mostly attributed to the breeding methods of females adopted by the family and the society, which show indifference to the significance to providing women with life skills and experience that would enable them control their feelings of fear, anger, subjection and other negative aspects and acquire a stable psychological state and become more capable to express their feelings in a sound and strong manner. Such activities lead to straightness in conduct, accuracy and observance at work, in addition to alleviation of tension and overcoming of frustration. By comparing the family breeding methods and their relations with the social and cultural deterioration with regard to those issues, it becomes significant to

make reference to those criteria and orientations that become more aggravated by the adopted social values, viz:

164- Prevalence of traditional roles of both sexes in the context of the family, which stand as an obstacle in the way of Women's broad participation in such activities.

- Disability of awareness, guidance and education operations to penetrate the structure of the society, their confinement to limited sections of the population and negligence of other social sections that are more in need of such services that aim at promoting the awareness of the family with the feasibility of such activities to girls and women.
- Cultural rejection for women's participation in all aspects of life that persist on marginalizing women's roles in numerous social, cultural, sports and recreational aspects of life.
- Differences in opinion on the changing role of the Yemeni women and attempting to analyze these conflicts in terms that do not serve the issue of women, but make them more complicated, which are in fact, factors attributed to prevailing community culture that discriminate between breeding of males and females since early childhood and further deepened by other social breeding institutions, such As schools, women community, men community and work places that form an extension to the family environment. These also an extension for the struggle between generations within the family itself, such as fathers, big brothers, husbands and guardians, regardless of their capacity of their relation to women and emphasize of their capacity of their relation to women and emphasize the values that bar participation of women in those fields and further stress discrimination between both sexes at learning stages, in general. But, at present there is a positive transition in these values, though limited only to some sections of the society.

Cultural and information stance, in their general context and through the disparity in women's share in education, work and culture, does not reflect in a real manner the significance of women's role and their participation in those fields, except in very marrow areas that do not highlight the magnitude of women's actual participation, nor do they reflect this diversification and its importance to the life of women, their families and society in order to raise awareness in the significance of social change and opinions in the previous image of women's role, which is the negative image reflected by the cultural constrains that bar development of women and personify their inferior status in the family and society.

- 165. As women, in general, and poor women, in particular, persist on being the ineffective and weak element of the society, they will undoubtedly remain the actual victims of the various cultural values that are being exercised and deepened by negative social values, which is also being felt from living with such prevailing cultures.

The negative change in changing the awareness of people, their selection and behavior increases by the impact of this culture more in urban rather than rural areas, and among the elderly rather than the youth and the illiterates of both sexes rather than the educated. It also increase distrust in women and not giving them the freedom to participate in decisions that are decisive to their life. Such attitudes resulted in having some women with negative psychological qualities as a result of strict culture, such as Subjection, reliance on others, avoiding participation and adherence to negative traditional roles.

The above are the factors and constrains that may interpret the Partial Cultural phenomena in favor of males.

These constrains have their own causes and psychological, social, economic and cultural qualities. The issue shall remain in need of in-depth studies to trace the various constrains that bar women from effective participation.

Article (14)
Rural Women.

166. Analysis of Yemen rural women entails handling the nature of problems encountered by women in rural areas and the role they assume in providing for their families subsistence and in their society, from the economic point of view, and economic financial sectors, in general. As such, it must be stated that rural women are considered one of the weak sections of the society, due to the unfavorable conditions and circumstances that prevail and deprive them from many available social opportunities. Under such circumstances rural women cannot attain, at present, providing all that is required by their families or participate in food security at the national level. The differences between the geographical areas and the results entailed therefrom must be taken into consideration.

In the field of agricultural production, the Yemen rural women are responsible for the production of food for the household in rain-fed land. They are also responsible for breeding livestock. Male farmer usually engage in producing market cash crops in the rain-fed lands.

In addition to agricultural and livestock breeding responsibilities, rural women also taken charge of all household needs of the family. The productive role of women forms a focus of interest of the society and women. Additionally, rural women also undertake the responsibility of bringing the families supplies of water and firewood, which takes much time and effort, particularly when these two items have to be brought from areas that are too far away from villages. Rural women spend an average of 16 hours per day on the agricultural and household works.

Rural women also engage in other works that require physical efforts but accomplished either manually or by the use of simple tools. Women's participation in agricultural and animal production is not evaluated as it should. As rural women's works are usually carried out outside the framework of the cash economy, they are not included in national surveys and census or accounts of the national income, which adversely affects the status of women and their opportunities to participate effectively in the activities of the Community and leads to directing all agricultural production facilities to men who engage in producing market cash crops, ignoring the fields that fall within the responsibility of women.

As rural women use primitive tools, their productivity is too low, which is aggravated by women's disability to procure good information on animal breeding or technologies that would save them a lot of time and effort spent on performing their tasks manually (Rural women spend 3 hours a day on feeding the cattle). Rural women are not also availed with veterinary services and women veterinarians are rare. Therefore, rural women spend significant time and effort on providing animal feed and other tasks pertaining to fattening of livestock, milking sheep and cows, grinding cereals manually, carrying water and firewood, collection of fodder, feeding livestock, making of butter and threshing of cereals manually.

167. This form of division of work leads to setting women aside from cash economy, whereby marketing of products, even if such products are produced by women, is exploited by men only. As such, women are deprived from the right to dispose of with their production or participate in its proceeds. The strict traditions regarding division of work and removing women from the market lead to depriving them from acquiring the skills connected with the cash economy, particularly elaboration of budgets, expenditure, sawing and trade, which are important to promote women's capabilities of work and decision making at the level of the family and public life.

168. Yemeni rural women involved in agricultural production do not have control over the production means and sources, such as land, water, agricultural equipment, credits and capital. This is in addition to the restrictions that hamper women from acquiring such a control. It is difficult for rural women to own agricultural lands, and if they do, they may not dispose of with such lands, sane some locations that have large numbers of women as heads of households.
Through depriving women from the right of inheriting agricultural land is contradictory to the teaching of Islam, yet such deprivation acquires its legality from the prevailing social traditions. Most rural women surrender to such traditions and assign their lands to their closes male next of kin. No statistical indicators are available on the division of ownership of land in Yemen on the basis of gender. This due to the complicated registration procedures in the Real-estate Register Office, particularly for illiterate women. Tradition in rural areas prohibit women from resorting of their land, and when they desire to recover their right to ownership of they face difficulties to go to Court by themselves, because this is socially unacceptable. High registration fees is also a difficult matter, specially for poor women.

169. Deprivation of women from their right in owning land deny them accumulation of capital and procuring loans, which are usually granted on real-estate guarantees, which at the end leads to the continuation and expansion of the poverty circle of women.
As for control over capital, rural women, on the basis of division of work, may be granted in-kind capital, such as beast of burdens, simple agricultural equipment and other necessary inputs. Husbands, by the virtue of monopolizing the activities connected with marketing, exercise control over cash capital and may dispose of with it, in addition to the fact that they usually procure credit facilities, too.

Division of work on the basis of gender reduces the probability for women to get technologies, that promote productivity and save time and effort, and irrigation projects that are usually directed to production of cash crops, normally controlled by men. This also applies to agricultural extension services, entailing deprivation of rural women from services very badly needed by them.

The above resources are of great significance to rural women in the context of achieving food security. The also suffer from the control of man over decision-making with regard to agricultural aspects and breeding of livestock, through such matters fall within the responsibility matters, such as those pertaining to credits, marketing, distribution of income and saving, and other decisions relating to the family, such as divorce, marriage, children education, selection of accommodation …etc.

National Strategy from Gender Perspective in the Field of Agriculture and Food Security:

170. Among the policies and programs that were prepared lately to meet the requirements of rural women is the orientation of the Government in 1998, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, towards setting up a gender national strategy in the field of agriculture and food safety that aims at:

- Promoting integration of gender, which means that women are equal partners of men in the development process to achieve a sustainable hum and development.
- Handling food security and aggravation of poverty, which entail adopting serious measures to counteract them.
- Promoting the activity of rural women, who assume prominent roles in producing food, which forms the backbone of ford security.
- Confronting the economic, social, cultural and legal problems and constrains that curtail women's role to promote their capacity to work and produce with efficiency to meet the requirements of food security and eliminate poverty at the level of households.

At the national level, handling problems that hamper rural women from becoming active partners in the development and social changing process.

Objectives of National Policy from Gender Perspective in the field of Agriculture and Food Security, 1998:

171. This strategy includes long, medium and short-term Objectives.

Long-term Objectives:

(a)Building a solid base, qualitatively and quantitatively, for good production and animal wealth, characterized for being sustainable.

(b) Mobilization of unexploited rural human resources, men and women and derive the maximum benefit from their capabilities and minimize the gap between both sexes, together with focusing on women, being the marginalized section of the society and the unsoundly exploited human resources.

(c)Promoting rural women, as an economic, productive and social medium, to more towards development and change through confronting the economic, social, cultural and legal constrains that bar equality with men and hamper them from integration in the society and effective participation in the process of development.

172. **Medium and Short-term Objectives:**

(a)Participation is elaborating a transparent agricultural strategy for gender within the framework of the national development strategy, which mean integration of women's concerns in the process of planning and implementation of agricultural programs and projects,.

(b) Promotion of awareness in gender among these involved in the National Agricultural Strategy and Rural Women Development through training in the field of communication skills.

(c) Assisting rural women to become more effective agricultural producers and livestock breeders, together with upgrading their knowledge, awareness and skills in the fields of utilization of natural resources, such as land and water, ..etc., and assisting them, as producers and manufacturers of food, to become liberated from the living/subsistence economy and procure the necessary capital and basic skills that would help their integration into the cash economy.

173- Such a gap between the urban and rural areas have more negative effect on women, as a result of being socially marginalized. Illiteracy rate at national level is 54.5%. If illiterates are distributed among 10 years and more by gender and between urban areas, we shall find that illiteracy rate among men is 16.3% and women 45.9%. In urban areas this rate 35%, while in rural areas 84%. Girls and women are always the first victims of scarcity of resources and high cost of specialized social services. Family social breeding methods of both sexes is reflected by devotion of preference in such methods and the results entailed therefrom in the negative division of work, particularly upon girls, who bear several household burdens and responsibilities, specially bringing water and fire wood from distant places. Girls and women spend 4 to 6 hours on such errands , which leads to deterioration of their health and weakens their capability to resist diseases, either due to lack of health center or difficulty of access to them. Rural women are also deprived from joining school, which makes the gap between both sexes in rural are as in the field of education deeper and limits their capabilities in participating effectively in the economic and social aspects and other fields of public life, in addition to limiting their capabilities in decision making.

Legal discrimination between both sexes does not exist. Shortcomings occur only as a result of wrong application of the laws. Legislation also doesn't provided for discrimination against women, but only for some socio-cultural reasons, such as those related to the rights of ownership of land.

Census results of 1994 indicate that work force is 3 million, i.e economic activity rate is 24% of the population. The highest number of working women, at the level of the Republic, engages in the field of agriculture and forms 87.5% of the total working women. As for the relative distribution of working women in agriculture, the percentage of women engaging out the level of the rural areas is 98.37% and only 1.63% engage in agriculture at the level of the urban areas. The majority of women in rural areas engage in agriculture for several reasons, viz.

(a) The larger number of population of the rural areas than that in the urban areas.

(b) The nature of traditional agricultural work, which does not require high levels of education and qualification.

(c) Internal and external migration of males, in pursuance of improving the living standards of their families, which adds to the burdens of rural women to involve in shouldering agricultural responsibilities in addition to those pertaining to the household.

(d) Rural women's work concentrates on lands owned by members of the household, i.e husband, father's husband ….etc. 79.49% of the rural women engaging in agricultural work against no wage, on the pretext that women's work in farms is an extension to their household duties and reduces mixing with foreigners and other members not belonging to the household.

(e) The exploitation of rural women's work in a continuous manner in favor of the father, brother, husband or relatives of the husband falls within the framework of the traditional economic relations and social aspects that prevail in rural areas. 97% of the agricultural work is carried out by women, such as preparation of the soil, removal of weeds, sawing, harvesting and storing of crops. All these are in edition to their household duties, such as preparation of meals, cleaning the house, bringing water and five wood supplies from distant places and caring for the children.

Health Care:

174. Health services are allocated 4% of the total public budget expenditure, which reflects the triviality of level of services in the health field in the rural areas. Epidemics spread more in rural than urban areas; diarrhea 78.86%. 8.13% of the total children are infected by poliomyelitis. Average age of rural population is 13.6%, as compared to 66.1% of urban population; fertility rate of rural population is 7%, as compared to 5% of urban population; and infant mortality rate is 65% for females and 85% for males.

Maternal mortality, at the level of urban and rural areas, which is attributed to causes related pregnancy and delivery is 800 cases in each 100,000 cases of child deliver (1994 census). Maternal mortality represents 42% of total mortality among women of the age category 15/59 years, women in their reproductive ages.

Women mortality, by reason of diseases, is double, as compared to men mortality. Generally, data relating to maternal mortality and diseases are short and inaccurate. There are no statistics at urban and rural levels, not does the health system maintain any statistics on maternal mortality. Demographic survey data on mother and child health, second round 1997, estimated maternal mortality at 351 cases in each 100,000 cases.

The same results also provide for a relative error in such an estimation at 31%, i.e in the event of reliance on this report, maternal mortality in Yemen may reach 460 case in each 100,000 cases, as maximum. But, maternal mortality is higher in rural than urban areas, attributed to the higher health awareness rate among urban women and higher rate of benefit from mother and child health care, family planning and reproductive health services.

Nutrition Status of Women:

Table (32) shows the nutrition status of women, taken in accordance with specific criteria, such as weight and height of mothers with one child only, in pursuance of identifying their nutrition status at the reproductive age. Pregnant women were set aside at the time of carrying out these investigations. The crucial point at which a women is considered to be in a dangerous state is when her height is between 140-150 cm. As for the mass of the body, which is an indicator for assessment of the nutrition condition of mothers, the crucial points in this survey in which the mother is considered under fed is 18.5 (for non-pregnant women).

Table (32) Showing the nutrition status Of women, by height and mass of the body .

Age	Mother's Average Height	% Less than 145cm.	Average	Body Mass Indicator
15-19	152	8	20	29
20-24	153	8	28	28
25-29	153	9	28	28
30-34	153	10	23	23
35-49	153	9	22	22
Total	153	9	21	25
Residence				
Urban	153	8	23	16
Rural	153	9	21	28

175. Results of Table (32) show that the average height among Yemeni mothers is about 153 cm, 9% of them are under 145cm. Average body mass among mothers is 21, about 25% of them with body mass less than 18.5%, which means that one quarter of the Yemeni mothers suffer from malnutrition at the level of the Republic, not only at the level of rural areas. This reflect, very significantly, the increase of the phenomenon of poverty, particularly among women, the derogating quality of food, income, level of education, nutrition awareness, rise in child delivery rates….etc. Rural women are also accorded education and extension services through health and rural workers, rural women development programs. Information and communication programs and other services and programs accorded by Government Ministers, national rural associations and organizations in the fields of health care for mothers and pre-delivery services. But, no accurate statistical indicators for these kinds of services are recorded or available.

Regarding the family planning program, through which these services are supposed to be extended to women in the rural areas, it may said that the rate of use of conception means in Yemen is very low, as compared with the other countries, and reflects the very level of use of such means by rural women.

Numerous studies show that this rate has improved during the last decade, from 1% to 3% and to 10% (results of demographic survey of 1991/92 on mother and child health, including natural breast feeding). These rates reflect the need for exerting more efforts in rural areas where such use of conception means is low, which will assist in improving the health status of women and, ultimately, promotion of their participation rate in community activities in general.

However, present statistical data on the use of family planning means, by king, show that women prefer prolonged natural breast feeding (8%), which is one of the traditional means that are being exercised widely in Yemen; then come the contraceptive pills (4%) followed by loops, tubal ligation and finally injections. Rates of use of the last 4 means are 3%, 1.4%, 1.7% and 2%, respectively. Safe periods and external ejaculation are among the traditional means adopted by women. Those women in the age category 45-49 years prefer to adopt the tubal ligation method (4%), reflecting their loss of desire to conceive any more.

Infant Mortality:

There are no detailed statistical data and indicators on infant mortality the level of rural and urban areas. There are statistical date only on children, in general. But, pursuant to the demographic survey of 1997, a remarkable improvement occurred in infant mortality rates, as indicated in the direct estimates of these rates during the past 25 years, whereby male infant mortality rate dropped from 148 cases in each 1000 live births to only 48.

Female child mortality rate (0-5 years) also dropped from 199 cases in each 1000 live births to 97 cases during the 5 years that had preceded the survey.

Infant and child mortality, at the level of the Republic, indicate higher rates among male children than female children during the 5 years that had preceded the survey during the first year of age.

After the first year of age, the level of females child mortality increases more than the corresponding rotes among male children, which may reflect a preference in according health care and nutrition services to male children rather than to female children.

Social Insurance Program:

176. Rural women are availed with social insurance services that are accorded under Social Security Network Program and other mechanism affiliated to it, particularly services of the Social Insurance Fund Program, in the form of social assistance to females and poor families in the rural areas, in accordance with specific conditions approved by the Social Insurance Law No: (31) of 1996 and amendments thereof, provided under its Chapter (2) entitled "Assistance General Conditions", Article 12-24.

Co-operative Associations:

177. Cooperative associations are considered among the structures that are important to rural inhabitants and women, as members to these association. There are numerous such association formed by women in rural areas, such as:

(a)Al-Arkoob Association in Al-Mahweet Governorate, which aims at:

- Training rural women on taking care of bees and constructing lives for them to increase production and promote quality of honey in order to improve income of the Association's members.

(b) Al-Suda'a Women Agricultural Co-operation Association at Guail Bawazir in Hadhramout Governorate, which aims at:

- Establishing and promoting cooperative relations with the public
- Provision of agricultural production inputs, seeds and better breeds of sheep and cattle, in pursuance of improving agricultural plant and animal production. This is in addition to:
- Organizing procurement of loans and credit facilities from banks and funding institutions for the Association and its members coordination with the federation and the concerned Ministry.
- Implementing agricultural production and advisory projects and benefiting from projects implemented by the State within the economic development plan in the Association's area of activity.

(c)Rural Women Association in the Governorate of Hajja, which aims at:
- Improving households' income
- Presentation to the public the significance of educating rural women and joining the eradication of illiteracy classes.
- Spreading health awareness among rural women.

(d) Al-Nahda women Association, which aims at:
- Improving rural women's income through small enterprise's
- Spreading health awareness
- Spreading awareness on the significance of education and joining the eradication of illiteracy classes.
- Organizing procurement of credit facilities.

There are other Association with members from both sexes, such as:
(a)Al-Safa'a Social Charitable Association, Utmah, Dhamer Governorate.
(b) Miklaf-Samah, Dhamar Governorate.
(c)Al-Hayat Agricultural Cooperative Association, Taiz Governorate
(d) Wadi Hardha Cooperative Association, Shabwa Governorate.
(e)The social Charitable Association at Al-ghurfa and its sugurbs, Hadhramout Governorate.
(f) Sadah Cooperative Association at Al-Dimnah/Khadir in Taiz Governorate.

(g) Saba Agricultural Cooperative Association, Marib Governorate.
(h) Al-Ma'afer Agricultural Cooperative Assocaition, Taiz Governorarte.

Loans:

178. There are several loan funds in Yemen, among them are:

1- **The Agricultural Credit Bank**, which has branches in most Governorates of the Republic. It accords limited and limited and simple loans in the field of breeding domestic animal. These loans are not significantly benefited from due to the high interest on the loans and non-acquisition of rural women for real estate to be presented to the bank as guarantees for the recover of loans.

2- **Agricultural and Fish Production Promotion Fund,** which accords service to rural women, and other women who engage in the fishing sector, in the form of loans for establishing projects/enterprises in the following fields:

(a) Promotion of domestic breeding of sheep and cattle.
(b) Expansion in cotton plantation
(c) Funding specialized dairy production cooperative farms
(d) Provision of fishing boats and engines for fishermen.
(e) Supporting extension of plan trees plantation areas
(f) Provision of improved seeds for the production of wheat and vegetables.
(g) Provision of agricultural machinery and equipment (such as tractors) and other inputs.
(h) Provision of seedling production inputs.
(i) Provision of vaccines against cowpox and sheep-pox.
(j) Supporting rural women agricultural production marketing services (through the construction of potatoes marketing and storing center at Amran).
(k) Construction of a fish marketing center at Zingibar, Abyan.
(l) Supporting condition of economic feasibility studies for agricultural and fish projects.
(m) Supporting activities of the Agricultural Cooperative Federation

The Fund also accords free support, without interest, at 40% of the loan value to rural households that have to contribute in paying 20% of the loan. The fund pays 40% of the loan at the beginning of the project and the other 40% within two years of implementation of the project.

The total number of project allocated to the component of promotion of domestic breeding of sheep and cattle is 320 during 1997. Total cost of those projects is YR10,887,000, while 1160 projects is YR10,887,000, while 1160 projects were allocated for the year 1997 within the framework of the same component. But, the total cost of all components (a) to (m) above is YR95,768,461.

Table (33) Showing the projects accorded to Rural Women during the year 1998.

Project	Total Cost	Found	Contribution	Recovered Loans till 2/1998
		Free Support	Soft Loans	
Promotion of Domestic Breeding	10,887,000			
1997	10,887,000	7,887,000	9,600,000	561,120
1998	95,768,461	35,341,355	42,740,459	

All Fund loans are of benefit to rural women, either directly or indirectly, and are accorded to most Governorates of the Republic.

However, this doesn't satisfy rural women's need for loans. Therefore, procedures that pertain to procurement of loans by rural women must be simplified, guarantee conditions be scaled down and interest rates be reduced.

Lending institutions must expand their services through opening branches for their offices in the rural areas and absorb females personnel to serve their agricultural and rural females clients.

Government Projects and Programs for Rural Areas in Yemen.

179. Local Initiative Project for supporting Household food Security:
This Project aims at improving the living priority to households headed by women, through the adoption of land protection techniques and fruits and vegetables production activities.

180. Rural Development Project at Wadi Rada'a:
The Project aims at:

- Improving the living condition of the inhabitants of Rada'a securing the provision of basic services.
- Promoting the income of poor rural households erection of agricultural projects.

181. Flood Inflicted Areas Rehabilitation Project:
This Project aims at reconstructing the economic infrastructure of the country (roads, agriculture, rural water projects) and also the infrastructure of transport,

communications, residential buildings, health and education public services which were damaged by floods.

182. Marib Dam Project (Second Phase):

This Project aims at:

(a) Exploiting rain water for agriculture and expanding agricultural lands.

(b) Reducing production costs through the adoption of channel irrigation.

(c) Preservation of water table level and minimizing reliance on drilling of wells.

183. Environmental Protection and Stabilization of Sand Dunes Project in Tihama:

This Project aims at:

(a) Using protection means to control movement of sand dunes.

(b) Improving exploitation efficiency of water in rural areas.

(c) Training a number of personnel in Tihama Development Authority on income generating activities, particularly the women.

184. Agricultural Cooperation Development Projects:

This Project aims at:

(a) Improving export operations of agricultural projects.

(b) Promoting in come of members of Agricultural Cooperatives.

(c) Promoting the volume of exports of local products.

(d) Increasing work opportunities

(e) Increasing State resources of foreign exchange

185. Land and Water Conservation Project:

This Project aims at:

(a) Supporting agricultural development, rationalization of water uses and conservation of land.

(b) Minimizing water waste through the adoption of drip irrigation system.

186. Apiaries Development Support Project:

This Project aims at:

(a) According advisory services to apiaries owners.

(b) Training of extension cadre

(c) According support to establish and activate Apiaries Association.

187. Coffee Development Project:

This Project aims at:

(a) Upgrading improvement of production

(b) Exploitation of water resources

(c) Promoting sustainable stability of farmers.

There are also numerous projects that have come to an end in 1998, and even before that. As for the projects indicated above, they shall be completed by the year 2000 or 2002.

Agricultural Marketing:
188. There seems to be an immense need for small income generating enterprises for rural women, that have to be closely related to the agricultural and animal activities and do not add any more burdens on rural women, in order to expand opportunities for marketing various products. Such projects must assist in enhancing women's role and their position in the household and community through promoting production systems and local marketing. Also through availing women with proper training and qualification opportunities in this field, together with concentration on the statistical data and indicators that are closely related to production and marketing in order to contribute towards setting up the general policies and programs for women in this aspect.

Agricultural Expansion Services:
189. Among the most crucial services planned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is to reach rural women through increasing the number of agricultural workers. The Agricultural co-operative Federation has undertaken the task of creating a department for the development of rural cooperative women to facilitate reaching rural women in the various Associations. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has also encouraged the establishment of Associations to facilitate reaching of agricultural services to the largest possible number of rural women.

Difficulties:
190. Despite the initiation of numerous procedures by the State that aim at promoting economic and social life, represented by establishing the Social Security Network Program and mechanism affiliated thereto, yet the Network faces some difficulties, among which the most significant are:

- Disability to extend its services to beneficiaries and most needy categories, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Lack of an accurate statistical database for beneficiaries and other categories at the top of its lists, which may assist the maturation of the security and social protection network, particularly poor women, to handle the present care programs, with regard to their adequacy, and the procedures they enforce, which normally deprive women from benefiting from such programs as a result of their ignorance or unawareness of the importance of these services.
- The exists no clear strategy for expansion to geographical areas, according to population density, based on the actual needs criteria and updating of priorities based on studies.

Article (15)

Equality between Before the Law

191. The society is make up of men and women, who form the base of emergence of communities. As such, the Yemeni society, in strict adherence to such a principle, observes that both parties to the society are concerned with respecting each others rights and that any of them complements the other.

The Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Yemen look upon men and women as equal in rights and obligations before the various authorities of the State, without differentiation or abatement of rights of any party on the expense of the other. This was made clear in the provisions of Article (40) of the constitution, which provides ad follows:

(All citizens are equal in public rights and obligations). Article (31) of the constitution provided as follows:
"Women are the siblings of men and they have the rights and bear the obligations that are ensured and directed by the Shari'a and provided for under the laws". This text has placed men and women in the same plane, with regard to earning rights and performance of obligations.

Article (24) of the Constitution provides as follows:
(The State ensures equal political, economic, social and cultural opportunities and enacts laws for the realization thereof)

Article (4) of the Constitution also provides as follows:
(The people are the possessor and source of power. They exercise it directly through referenda and general elections. They also exercise it indirectly through the legislative, executive and judicial bodies and elected councils).

The term "People" in the above text means the whole society, men and women. Expression of this equality was indicated under the Constitution by the use of the term "citizen, and the like" in place of a general and comprehensive term, which may be equally used to mean men and women, as indicated under the provisions of Article 4-, 42, 43, 47, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 84 of the Constitution.
Additionally, men and women are equal and right and obligations as stated under and guaranteed by the Constitution and Organized by the Laws for the various aspects of life.

192. In the judicial aspect, women are also equally treated as men. This was guaranteed by the Constitution through the provisions of its Article No: (50), which gives the right to citizen, male or females, to resort to the legislature to protect his or her legal rights and may also complain to the State organs, whereby Article (50) of the same Constitution provides as follows:

193- (A citizen may resort to the legislature to protect his or her legal interests and may also file complaints, comments and proposals to the State organs and establishments, directly or indirectly)

The Constitution has also stressed the right of defense to every citizen, by person or proxy, at all phases of investigation, claim and all Courts, regardless of whether such defense is by a man or women. Additionally, the text clarified that the State guarantees legal assistance for those unable define the sex of the litigant. It is general and comprehensive, which means that women also may benefit form the legal services and would be accorded legal assistance by the State in the event of being unable to meet legal expenses involved. Article (48) of the Constitution provides as follows:

(Right to defense, by person or proxy, is guaranteed at all levels of investigation and claim before courts of all degrees, pursuant to the Law. The State ensures legal assistance to those unable to pay for it in accordance with the Law.)

193. The provisions of Articles (48) and (50)) of the Constitution guarantee women's right to equal treatment before the legislature as men and may equally be plaintiffs or defendants, as men.

This fact is being supported by the provisions of Article (2) of the Judicial Authority Law No: (1) of 1990, which read as follows:

(Litigants are equal before the legislature, regardless of their sex or status).

195. Article (9) of the Penal Procedures Code No: (13) of 1994 provides as follows:

(The right to defense is guaranteed. The accused may undertake to defend or himself or herself personally or solicit the assistance of an attorney at any stage of the penal case, including investigation. If the accused is insolvent or poor, the State shall provide such an attorney. The Council of Minister, on a proposal by the Minister of Justice shall issue as regulation that organizes provision of attorney for insolvent or poor accused persons).

The above text supports and interprets the provisions of Article (48) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, referred to above.

Article (147) of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen provides as follows:

196- (The legislature is autonomous judicially, financially and administratively. The public production is one of its bodies and Courts undertake resolving all disputes and crimes. Judges are independent and their judgments are subordinated to no other power but the law and no agency may interfere, in any manner, in cases or any other matter that pertains to affairs of justice. Such intrusion shall be considered a crime punishable under the law and any claim for intrusion hall not be liable to prescription).

Article (149) of the same Constitution provides as follows:
(Judges and members of the public prosecution and not liable to dismissal, except for reasons indicated under the law. They may not also be transferred from the judicial posts to other posts, except by their own consent or approval of the board concerned with such affairs, unless such actions for disciplinary reasons. The Law also organizes the legal professions of attorneys at law)

Article (1) of the Judicial Authority Law provides as follows:
(The legislature is an independent authority with regard to performance of its tasks. Judges are also independent and their judgments are subordinated to no other power, but the law. No agency may interfere, in any manner, in cases or any other matter that pertains to affairs of justice. Such intrusion shall be considered a crime punishable under the law and any claim for intrusion shall not be liable to prescription).

The term "judges" in the above text is used in a general sense and includes judges and members of the prosecution, men and women, which means that women can assume posts of judges and members of prosecution, like men. The above provisions also apply equally to male and female judges.

This was confirmed by the provisions of Article (57) of the Judicial Authority Law No: (1) of 1991, which identified general conditions to be fulfilled by whosoever is appointed to the post of a judge in a court or a post with the public prosecution, such as acceptance criteria, like age, nationality and qualifications. The provisions didn't make reference to gender of the judge. Statistics indicate that there are (32) female judges in Yemen.

The Yemeni legislator, through the provisions of the Civil Code No: (19) of 1992, Article (38), stated that the beginning of a human entity, male or female, starts at birth alive and ends by his/her death. The provision also granted the fetus rights to inheritance, at the maximum that may be available, for a male or female child, if born alive.

Article (38) of the Civil Code provided as follows:
(The beginning of a human entity starts at birth alive and ends by his/her death).

However, a live fetus is entitled to rights which are taken into consideration by the Law.

197. Article (50) of the Civil Code clarifies two kinds of legibility, i.e legibility by necessity, which means fitness of a person male or female, to acquire rights and undertake obligations; and legibility by performance, which mean fitness of a person, male or female, to express opinion to gain legal effects to his or her favor, whereby it has provided as follows:

(Legibility is of two kinds:

1- Legibility by necessity for legal rights of, and against, the person, established for him or her from the date of his or her birth;
2- Legibility by performance, in accordance with which the person starts exercising his or her civil rights.)

198. Article (51) of the same Civil Code specified the legal age at 15 years when attained by a person, male or female, who enjoys being mentally same and wise in conduct and behavior, at which he or she shall be considered fully legible to exercise his or her civil rights. However, special laws may stipulate an age higher than this, at which a person may exercises or enjoy any other rights.

From the above, it is apparent that women may express their opinion to gain legal effects to their favor, including among other things the right to conclude contracts in their own names or exercise any commercial business.
Article (8) of Commercial Law No: (32) of 1991 defined commercial business as "Business carried out by a person for the purpose of making profit, even if he or she is not a merchant"

The term person is general and refers to both men and women. By exercising business women do not need to have the consent or prior approval from anybody, particularly when such provisions of the Law do not stipulate any conditions therefor, whereby Article (18) of the Commercial Law clarified this point as follows: (whosoever engages in his or her name, without discrimination, in any commercial transactions, while acquiring legal legibility, and takes such transactions as a profession shall be termed a merchant)

This provision is being emphasized beyond any doubt by the provisions of Article (54) of the Civil Code, which gave wives and their adult children the right to act as agents for absent husbands in preserving and managing their funds, to spend on their needs from such funds and settle any debts due to others.

199. The provisions of Article (54) mentioned above are as follows:
(An absent person, whose place is unknown or no news are received about him for one year since such absence and has no agent, custodian or guardian, shall have his wife and adult children as agents to preserve and manage his funds and to spend on their needs from such funds, settle his debts to others and receive rights due to him. If such husband has no wife or adult children, or if established that the wife and children may squander these funds, the Court may induct a prudent person of his relatives to take charge of preserving these funds. This relative shall assume the functions and responsibilities of a guardian and act under the supervision of the Court).

In other words, women may manage the funds of their absent husbands and may also act as such if authorized by husbands in these matters.

200. In its definition for the term "right", Article (123) of the Civil Code provides as follows:
(Right is an established interest of the individual and/or the society, moral and material interests acknowledged by the Sharia. If right pertains to funds, it is considered as power by the virtue of which a person may dispose of, benefit from, use or exploit it in accordance with the law. For each right there is a corresponding duty which has to be performed by the person having such a right).
Both terms "individual and person" in the above text were used in a general form, i.e for man and women, which reflects women's right to dispose with their funds without any restrictions.

Article (40) of the Civil code defines "contract" as (Consent by a party accept, or to which acceptance is expressed, by the other party in a manner that shows its effect on the thing contracted. The contract entails observance by the contracting parties of duties undertaken; it does not stipulate adherence to a specific text, but to considerations that reflect consent or Convention).

The term "contracting parties" was used in a general form that includes wan and women.

201. Article (26) of the Law of Evidence No: (21) of 1992 provides as follows:
(Evidence is information delivered in a Court by a person to prove the right a second person from a third person), i.e such evidence may be delivered by any person, man or woman. The test did not discriminate between man and woman with regard to acceptance or delivery of evidence.

Article (27) of the same law clarifies the conditions that must be available in the witness, such as to be same, adult, of probity, not to have been shipped for a punish able act, not objected to with regard to integrity, not to derive any interest or avoid an injury by delivery of such evidence and not to be an opponent of the person against whom the evidence is delivered. The above conditions do not make any reference to gender, which means that women have the same rights accorded to men with regard to delivery of evidence. Women's evidence has the same legal effect as that of men and forms the basis for verification of matters with which men are not familiarized and acts that occur in places provisions of Article (30) of the Law of Evidence, which states as follows:
(Women's evidence is accepted in matters with which men are not familiarized and acts that occur in places allotted to women only).

202. Article (56) of the Constitution provides as follows:
(Movement from one place to another in the Republic of Yemen is guaranteed for all citizens and may not be restricted, except in the events identified by the law for reasons relating to security and safety of citizens. Entry into and exit from the Republic are organized by the law. No citizens may be expelled from Yemeni land or prevented from returning to it)

The above constitutional provision has give women the same rights if freedom of movement from one place to another as those of men without discrimination. This movement is not restricted for any reason, except the cases shown under the Law for requirements that pertain to safety and security of citizens. Pursuant to this provision, men and women have the freedom to choose their places of residence without any restrictions.

Article (246) of the Crimes and Punishment Law has for bidden detention of freedom and provided as follows:
(whosoever arrests, detains or deprives a person from his/her freedom in any may without a legal justification shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not more than three years. Such period of imprisonment shall extant to five years if the act is committed by a civil servant, a person personifying a civil servant or carrying a weapon or by two or more persons or for robbery or if the victim is a minor or mentally retarded or if such am act exposes the life of the victim to danger).

Article (16)

Marriage and the Family Law.

203. Article (26) of the constitution provides that the family is the basis of society.

Family relation, with regard to its organization in the Republic of Yemen, are subject to the provisions of the Personal Status Law No: (20) of 1992 and amendments therefor. This law is derived from the provisions of the Islamic Sharia, which entail, for the union of man and woman, rights and duties for each of them towards the other to achieve sincere affection and kindness between them.

Islamic Sharia has granted woman, as it did to man the right to see the man. who has come to ask for hand, and decide whether to get married to him or not, i.e a woman has the right to choose her husband, as man to choose his wife. The marriage contract, like other contracts, shall not be valid without its two perquisites being provided for, i.e affirmation and acceptance, which if not realized, shall be considered invalid. In other words, if the woman doesn't agree to marry the man who has asked for her hand, a marriage contract may not be concluded due to absence of one of the above mentioned prerequisites.

Article (23) of the Personal Status Law and amendments therefore provides as follows: (It is conditional that the woman's consent be secure; the virgin's consent is her silence and the non-virgin's is bar explicit pronunciation). From the above text, it is clear that the woman's consent and Convention to the person, who has come to ask for her hand, is an important condition, without which a marriage contract cannot bed realized. The "qadhi" (marriage conductor) must make sure that such a condition is realized before conclusion of the marriage contract, which if concluded under coerce, shall not be considered valid under the law. Article (10) of this law provides as follows: (Any contract concluded under coerce of man or wife is considered null and void).

Similarly, a woman may not be from getting married to the man, who has come to ask hand, whom she has accepted. If the woman's guardian refrains from concluding the marriage, the qadhi (marriage conductor/magistrate) shall order him to do so; and if this is also refused by the guardian, the qadhi himself shall conclude the marriage contract.

Article (18), paragraph(2), of the Law provides as follows:
(If the woman's guardian refrains from concluding the marriage contract, the qadhi shall order him to do so. If this is also refused by the guardian, the qadhi shall ask her nearest next-of-kin to do it. In the event the woman has no such next-of-kin to do it. In

the event the woman has no such next-of-kin, or, if there, refuses to do so, the qadhi himself shall conclude the contract, with a dowry similar to her equals).

204. Article (19) of the same Law also provides that a woman's guardian shall be considered refusing to get her married if such a woman is adult, some and willing.

Engagement is hereby defined as the request of a man for marrying a particular woman and presenting such a request to her or her relatives, which is the method that prevails most, due to the fact that man is the party that shall undertake the establishment of the family. However, there is no provision that prevents a woman, or her relatives, to ask the hand of a man, within the limits of the etiquette of the Sharia and customs. Engagement is either by intimation or explicit declaration to have the woman as a wife. Engagement methods always differ due to diversity of traditions from one place to another. But, the most important matter is that these traditions do not deviate or surpass the provisions of the law. However, those traditions do not constitute any effect with regard to selection of the woman, as her choice to get married is based on her contentment with the man and vice versa.

Article (2) of the Personal Status Law provides as follows:
(Engagement is a proposition by a person, or any one who represent him, to a guardian of a woman asking for her hand for marriage).

The Muslim may not propose to a finance of his Muslim brother, unless the consent of the latter is secured, otherwise he should draw his attention away from her. A women may also not get engaged or betrothed during the Idda period (the period during which a window may not remarry), unless she is irrevocably divorced.

205. Article (15) of the Personal Status Law provides that the husband may not carry home the bride unless the is fit and prepared for sexual intercourse, provided that her age be not less 15 years. It also clarified that no marriage contract may be concluded for a minor, except in the event when such contract is for a very clear interest. However, early marriage is considered among the social phenomena that prevail in Yemen.

Article (51) of the Civil Code No: (19) of 1999 defines legal age as follows: (Legal age is 15 years when attained fully by a person, male or female, who enjoys being mentally sane and wise in conduct and behavior, at which he or she be considered fully legible to exercise his or her civil rights. However, special laws may stipulate an age higher than this, at which a person may exercise or enjoy any other rights).

206. Article (14) of the Personal Status Law provides as follows:
(whosoever undertakes concluding a marriage contract, the husband and the guardian of the wife shall register the contract with the competent authority in the Register

prepared for this purpose within one month as of date of marriage. Registration of the contract by one of the above mentioned shall suffice, provided that contract includes the necessary information, such as age of husband and wife, their I.D Cards number, if any, and the immediate and deferred dowry).
Through there is no provision that stipulates registration of divorce, yet it is deemed necessary that it be registered with the competent marriage registration authority, which is actually being observed to establish divorce officially.
Article (348), paragraph (b) obliges the husband who divorces his wife to inform the competent authorities of the divorce within one week of its occurrence.

The test of Article (14) reflects clearly the necessity of payment of dowry by the husband to the wife and that the amount of dowry be indicated in the marriage contract.
Article (33) of the Personal Status Law provides as follows:
(a)The dowry obliges the wife to fulfil the conditions agreed upon in the marriage contract, in which should also be indicated things that the wife may not own and legal benefits allowed to be retained and exercised.
If such a benefit is not cited in the contract, wrongly cited or completely omitted, an equal amount to the dowry shall be entitled to the wife.
(b) Dowry is the sole ownership of the wife, who may dispose with it in any manner she likes. Any provision to the contrary of the above shall be considered null and void.

Dowry is an immense necessity and a religious duty that man has to fulfil towards his wife. Even if the marriage is concluded without identifying the amounts of the dowry, the woman must get a dowry similar to that of her equals, calculated at the time of marriage. In short, us marriage without dowry.

207. Article (40) of the Personal Status Law provides as follows:
(Man has the right to obedience of his wife with regard to all that pools in the interest of the family, specially:-
(a) Transfer with the husband to marital house, unless stipulated in the contract that he resides in the wife's or her family's house, in which case provisions should be made to enable the husband have free access to her.
(b) To avail him with legal sexual access.
(c) Obeying the husband in all matters that are not sinful and performing tasks in the marital house, like other wives.
(d) Not to leave the house without her husband's permission, except for a legal excuse or for socially accepted reasons that do not violate honor or her duties towards the husband, particularly looking after her interests or practicing a job. Rendering services to her old parents, in the event of absence of any person to accord them such services, is considered a legal excuse for a woman to leave her marital house.)

208. Article (41) of the Law deals with the duties of the husband towards his wife and provides as follows:
(a) Provision of a legal marital house similar to one owned or leased by their equals.
(b) Provision of subsistence and attire like her equals.
(c) Exercise of fairness, if married to more than one woman.
(d) Not to exploit her wealth for his personal interest.
(e) Not to harm his wife physically or morally.

209. Article (42) of the Law provides as follows:
The legal marital house must be independent, in which the wife must also feel safe and secure. For the provision of the house, the financial status of the husband, the condition of houses of her equal, the traditions of the area and the suitability of the house should be taken into consideration.
The husband may live with his wife, his children from her or other wives, his parents and other unmarriageable women, provided that the house be enough to accommodate them without harm to the wife and that no condition to the contrary was stipulated in the marriage contract.

210. The husband may not accommodate a second wife in his first wife's marital house, unless the first wife first wife consents to that, but may withdraw such consent at any time she likes.

Article (12) provides as follows:
A man may have four wives, provided that the following conditions are realized:
(a)That the husband treats them equally fair.
(b) That the husband is capable of providing for all of them.
(c)That the husband informs each wife of his marriage to the other wives.

Polygamy is allowed, being one of the matters permitted by the law, which is derived from the Islamic Sharia. In the event of having more than one wife, the husband shall retain the same rights indicated under Article (40) above and the wives shall have the same rights indicated under Articles (41) and (42), above.

211. Man and Woman from the two corners of matrimonial and family relations. Each of them may freely decide the number of children to have and at the period between one child and the other. The provisions of the law did not make reference to any thing that may restrict man or woman from this right. Women, in general, may have access to family planning information and services from health agencies and institutions easily ant without restrictions. Women have also the same as men to breeding of their children.

Both corner to matrimonial relations, i.e man and wife, have the right to organizing their family affairs in the manner they like. There are no provisions that restrict women from this right.

Women have also the same rights with regard to guardianship of minors. Article (261) of the Personal Status Law defines the "guardian" as (the person appointed by someone to implement his will, pay his debts, receive amounts due to him and take care of his minor children and their property. The guardian may also delegate those responsibilities to another person who shall assume his position after his death).

The Article defined the guardian as "whosoever" appointed by someone, without discriminations or stipulations that such a guardian be a manner woman. Articles (262)-(281) of the same law discussed the guardian and the wage of the guardian without making any reference to whether a guardian should be a male or a female.

It was also pointed out that women may create legal effects to their favor, such as management of real estate and other acts. Marriage doesn't restrict, women from creating such acts as legal legibility doesn't change for women before or after getting married.

212. The Civil Code No: (19) of 1992 has organized, in its Volume 4, the provision on ownership and other issues relating thereto. Among those provisions are:

- Article (1161), which provides only the owner of the thing shall, within the limits of the law, benefit of, use, exploit or dispose of with it"

- Article (1162), which provides " The owner of the thing shall posses every part or component of that thing"

- Article (1164), which provides "The owner of thing shall legally possess all the original and secondary uses of that thing, unless there exists an Convention to the contrary"

- Article (1166), which provides "No one shall deprive any one else from anything, except in case acknowledged under the law, by methods indicated therein against a fair compensation"

From the above provisions, we find that women's right to ownership is ensured and that there exists nothing that limits it, particularly the provisions of Article (1161), which provided, in a general manner, that only the owner of thing, be than a man or woman and within the limits of the law, shall benefit of, use, exploit and dispose of with that thing, i.e women, like men, may one anything and also within the limits of the law, manage that thing and dispose of with it without restrictions.

Article (1167)-(1186) provided for restrictions that apply to ownership, neighborhood and partnership rights. No restrictions are contained therein which discriminate between men and women in this regard.

213. The Islamic Sharia allowed divorce, as an a way out of frustration caused by matrimony that has failed to realize was intended by Allah the Almighty, i.e peace and cooperation in life.

Article (59) of the Civil Status Law No: (20) and amendments thereof provides that " the husband may divorce his wife there times, which are liable to renewal after the actual intercourse of the wife by another husband.

The above provisions gives the right of divorce only to the husband. However, a husband may forfeit his right to divorce his wife, which was provided for under Article (60) of the Personal Status Law as follows, Divorce may be executed by a husband or his agent, even if such an agent was the wife herself"

The possession of the bond of marriage by man doesn't mean that a women cannot get rid of matrimonial life if she desires to. The Sharia has granted the means, such as repudiation, or divorce, in return of compensation to the husband, after which the matrimonial relations between them comes to an end. Article (72), (73), and (74) of the Personal Status Law organize repudiation and its conditions.

214. The Yemen legislator, through the provisions of Article (141) of the Personal Status Law, indicated that the mother is the most deserving party to guardianship of her children, regardless of whether such guardianship is after divorce or death of the husband. The provisions indicate, in a general manner, that the mother is the most deserving party to guardianship and never restricts such a right to any particular cases. This means that her right to guardianship of her children is absolute, after divorce or death of her husband, as long as she fulfils the guardianship conditions, namely maturity, sanity, faithfulness to minors and ability to take care of the children, morally and physically. After the death of the mother, guardianship transfers to her mother, then the father's mother, to aunts of the minor, the father and finally mother of the father. This is exactly what was provided under Articles (141) and (142) of the law. Guardianship period is mine years for males and twelve years for females, unless the magistrate or judge decides otherwise, i.e the magistrate may order remaining of children with the mother even after the expiration of the guardianship period, but as long as the interest of the children entails as such. It is worth of mention to indicate here that practical results in issues pertaining to nursing, subsistence and guardianship do not differ from the provisions of the law, in consideration of the fact that such provisions are commanding and tolerate no interpretation.

Article (139) provides that the guardianship period for the male is nine years and for the female twelve, unless the judge decides to the contrary for interest of the child, subject to the provisions of Article (148) of the law.

Article (140) provides as follows "It is conditional that the guardian of a minor be mature, some, faithful and able to take care of the children, morally and physically".

Article (141) provides as follows "The mother is the most deserving party to guardianship of her children, provided that her illegibility to such guardianship is established"

Forfeiture of such a right by the mother shall not be entertained unless the children accept another person else than her, otherwise she would be compelled to assume those guardianship responsibilities. If the mother is married to a second husband, he may not prevent her from assuming this responsibility. Misconduct of the mother shall not deprive her from her right to guardianship until the minor attains the age of five years."

Article (142) provides as follows, "If the mother dies or her guardianship is disqualified, guardianship shall transfer her mother. If her mother is not alive, guardianship goes the aunts of the minor, them to the Muslim father, then to the mother of the father, then the sisters, than the sister, then the aunt's daughters, then the uncle's daughters and then the father's nephews. If no female guardian is available, guardianship transfers to the nearest male next-of-kin, then the nearer and so on. If these are not available, guardianship then goes to available person that has blood relation with the minor. The person having relation to both father and mother shall be given preference to the person related only to one of them, relations of the mother have preference to relations of the father. If these are of the same social status, guardianship shall go to the fitter. But, if both are equally fit, the matter shall be reverted to the judge, who may surpass this arrangement if the deems that better for the minor.

Article (143) provides, "Guardianship shall transfer from a guardian to the one that comes next in the above arrangement for one of the following reasons: insanity and the like, such as leprosy, blindness, debauchery and avoiding marriage to a spouse who is believed not to have mercy upon the minor"

At the elapse of the guardianship period, the child may choose between the father and the mother. This is actually what was provided for under Article (148) of the Law, which states as follows:

"when a child, male or female, becomes independent, it may choose between the father and the mother, if they are at a difference with each other. If those entitled to guardianship differ each other, the judge shall select the party deemed better for the interest of the child, after investigating the opinion of the child."

No-doubt. the father, or husband, is obliged to provide for his children. Legal obligations for the payment of subsistence for the children are confined to food, attire, accommodation, medical treatment and the like, pursuant to the provisions of Article (149) of the Personal Status Law, which states as follows," subsistence represents material requirements in custody of a person with another person and includes food, attire, accommodation, medical treatment and the like."

Orders regarding payment of subsistence for children are implemented in an expeditions manner. Appealing against such orders doesn't prevent their implementation, as provided for and emphasized under Article (210) of the Law of Procedures No: (28) of 1992, which states as follows, " Appealing entails suspension of execution of an order, except in the following cases:

- If the order appealed against is for subsistence, wages for nursing, guardianship, accommodation or delivery of the child to its mother."

215. In the event of divorce, property is not shared. The wife retains all her personal belongings without the husband having any right to them. The husband remains responsible about the subsistence of his divorced wife until the expiration of the "Idda" period, pursuant to the provisions of Article (151) of the Personal Status Law, which states as follows, " The wife, who is divorced revocable or pregnant, is entitled to subsistence from her husband until expiration of the Idda period". Women's work at the marital house is among her obligations towards her husband, pursuant to the above details. As for the work of the wife or her property, whether agricultural or her property, whether agricultural or else, they remain an absolute right to her during matrimony and after divorce and may dispose with them in any manner she likes.

Rights and obligations of Widows and Widowers may be summarized as follows

(a)Rights and obligation of a Widow:

216- A widow, who has lost her husband, shall observe on (Idda) period for four months and ten days in respect of the sanctity of the marriage bond and to make sure of absence of pregnancy. But, if she were pregnant, her (Idda) shall come to an end by the delivery of the infant, pursuant to Article (81) of the personal Status Law, which states as follows "The Idda, by reason of pregnancy, shall under all cases, terminate by the delivery of the infant. But, the Idda period of an unpregnant widow shall terminate after four months and ten days"

A widow may not at all remarry during the Idda period. It has been adopted as a custom that a widow does not leave the marital house during the Idda period, except for very serious reasons, nor to put any cosmetics or make-up.

A widow has a right to the inheritance of her deceased husband, after performance of certain rights, such as the funeral expenses, subsistence of the wife during the Idda period, settlement of debts and execution of the deceased will.

(b) Rights and Obligations of a Widower:

A widower has a right to the inheritance of his deceased wife, after payment of her debts and execution of her will. Husbands, unlike wives, do not observe the Idda period.

217. A widow and her daughters have the right to the inheritance of the husband or father, be such inheritance land, real estate or other movable property. Also, the wife, or widow, and all her children, makes and females, have a right to inheritance without discrimination or need for the existence of a will, as this right is ensured by the law.

It must be made clear that the widow and daughters are among the legal heirs. Will is among the matters that had been called for by Islam, but provided that kindness and fairness be observed when executing it. Wills that generally pertain to particular heirs are invalid unless admitted by the other heirs, pursuant to Article (234) of the Personal Status Law, which states as follows" A will to a heir shall be invalid unless admitted by the other heirs."

If the deceased bequeaths real or something else to his wife or daughter and the heirs admit to that, them the will becomes valid. But if the heirs do not agree to the will, it shall not be executed and the wife or daughter shall have the rights only to the inheritance.

218. The right of heirs to inheritance, after the death of the inherited, is guaranteed by the law without the need for the existence of a will. Article (307) of the Personal Status Law provides as follows:-

" Those entitled to inheritance are six, namely:

(a) Daughters and sons' daughters or their descendants.

(b) Sons and their male children or their descendants."

That is, children of the deceased, pursuant to above provisions, are entitled to inheritance, even if there exists no will, with a difference in the shares of each them, whereby a males share is double that of a female

Part Three

Dissemination Mechanism of the Convention in the Media

The dissemination of the provisions and articles of the "Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women" through the formal and informal media is almost absent, despite the significance of the vital issues that pertain to women contained therein. Such dissemination aims at:

- Creating a change in the mentality and social reality and social reality of women so as this Convention becomes a part of the national culture of the society.

- Elaborating an appropriate mechanism for presenting the Convention through the women's programs, plans and projects.

- Promoting for the Convention through the information programs and strategies to inform the public opinion and the people of the contents and provisions of this Convention and the importance of its dissemination.

- Transition of the Convention dissemination means and techniques from assuming an information role to a convincing role that urges the public to accept its provisions and interpreting it to programs and activities to reflect itself in all aspects of l life and make and make the people more aware of women's issue and the rights indicated in it to prevent exercising discrimination against them and finally to make the public accept and adopt these trends .

- Promoting awareness level in the objectives of the Convention and its contents in order to direct adoption of its provisions in all policies, programs and activities.

- Providing information on the articles of this Convention and disseminate them through information leaflets and stickers to be distributed among Governmental and non-Governmental women programs, the private sector and the various activities.

- Utilizing information media, such as TV, radio and newspapers as means of information campaigns for a comprehensive covering of the Convention.

- Production of education, cultural and information materials for the dissemination of the provisions of the Convention and using mobile information units, symposia, workshops and open meetings.

- Soliciting the assistance of institutional channels of the private sector and NGO's.

- Exploiting information media and population communications to influence the projected reference framework to bring about positive changes in their cognitive inventory to increase their awareness in women's issues, their needs and rights them and change of behavioral trends.

- Exploiting official mass communication means that can serve dissemination of the International Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women through general orientations to all categories of the public.

General and Transitional Objectives of Information Coverage Programs of the Convention's Dissemination Mechanism:

- Providing those engaging in the field of information with enough data on the Convention.

- Identifying the short-term transitional objectives that have to focus on the following:

- Promoting level of awareness of the public in the Convention and its humanitarian, social and development contents.

- Encouraging the public to accept the contents of the Convention through the elaboration of messages that aim at motivating its interest in women's issues and their dimensions.

- Enhancing all women programs, plans and projects through the creation of a components in its activities that takes care of the Convention's dissemination mechanism.

- Preparing an information plan for the selection of information messages for the dissemination of the Convention.

The various information media, the numerous channels and functions that shall be used in the mechanism scope and dissemination of the Convention shall be required to undertake these tasks and responsibilities and have the necessary means for implementing these efforts that aim at:

- Qualifying and training information cadre in the field of women's affairs to prepare various information messages and programs to disseminated and promote the Convention.

- Allocating budgets to secure expanding the base and mechanism of dissemination of the Convention among the local public opinion at the level of both sexes.

- Providing qualified technical expertise to participate in setting up national qualification, training, advisory and technical programs to take care of implementing and activating dissemination of the Convention.

- Preparing a training manual to disseminate awareness about the objectives and contents of the Convention, in accordance with scientific and practical criteria and specification, for the benefit of teachers at all school levels, universities, judges, security personnel ….etc.

Difficulties:

- Weakness of awareness in the significance of this Convention. Also, weakness of its dissemination methods to interpret it into work plans and programs.

- Lack of awareness in the Convention by many judges and advocates, who may assume a clear role in adopting and disseminating the Convention.

- Lack of State budget to contributed towards setting up a mechanism for implementation of the Convention.

- Lack of training of the technical information cadre in preparing oriented messages that aim at activating the dissemination mechanism.

- Lack of awareness training manuals for dissemination of the Convention in accordance with scientific criteria and specifications to achieve positive results.

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